

## NEWSLETTER

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### EC -ILO Office 2011 High Level Meeting



The ILO Office and the European Commission (EC) services had their 9th Annual High Level Meeting (HLM) on 20 May 2011 in Geneva. The ILO delegation was headed by Ms Maria Angelica Ducci, ILO Executive Director and Director of the Cabinet of the ILO Director-General Mr Juan Somavia. The EC delegation was headed by Mr Koos Richelle, Director-General of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. The newly appointed EU Ambassador in Geneva, Amb Mariangela Zappia, equally participated. From the side of the European Union DG EMPL, DG ECFIN, DG HOME, DG DEVCO, DG TRADE, and the EEAS were represented.

At the Meeting the representatives from both institutions highlighted that the mutual cooperation was intensifying, both in the EU and elsewhere. The joint agenda included the ongoing policy priorities of both institutions in the aftermath of the financial and economic crisis; social dialogue and international labour standards in times of crisis in the EU and elsewhere; and ILO-IMF-EU cooperation and collaboration in the G20. The HLM also resulted in convergent views on the role of social protection, including the UN social protection floor. This was important in the light of the upcoming key discussions on social protection at the June 2011 International Labour Conference. A session was devoted to ILO-EU cooperation in North African/Arab states. Other themes were the collaboration on labour migration, development and trade issues. The HLM will result in jointly prepared and adopted conclusions.



### ILO-EC-ACP cooperation on child labour - TACKLE



Tackling Child Labour through Education project, known as “TACKLE”, was launched by ILO/IPEC in March 2008 for a four year term. It is co-funded by the EC and supported by the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of states. Its objective is to assist the participating 12 countries (Angola, Fiji, Jamaica, Guyana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Papua New Guinea, North Sudan, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Zambia) with those policies, plans and actions that have a bearing on children’s development, enhance their capacity to address child labour, support service delivery to children withdrawn or prevented from child labour and raise awareness on child labour issues in these countries.

A mid-term review workshop, mobilising Ministries of Labour and Education and social partners of the participating countries, representatives of the EC and the ACP Secretariat and members of the ILO/IPEC team was organized on 23 and 24 May 2010. At this occasion, all partners expressed their very strong commitment to the activities promoted by and implemented through “TACKLE”. It resulted in the decisions to put more emphasis on developing innovative approaches to deliver services to affected children, especially education, on more efforts for knowledge generating and sharing as well as for awareness raising and advocacy. Angola, Sierra Leone and both North and South Sudan will receive more technical support during the remaining period of implementation. The workshop also decided an

extension for another 18 months until September 2013 so that all activities foreseen can be implemented and the sustainability of the project can be better ensured.

In 2009 IPEC was operational in 92 countries. TACKLE is, together with an IPEC programme in Pakistan, the only ongoing EU co-funded ILO/IPEC programme.

It is useful to remind that the EU Council of Ministers strongly supported in June 2010 the 2010 Roadmap for the eradication of the worst forms of child labour by 2016, as adopted by the May 2010 The Hague International Conference on Child Labour.

### New European Neighbourhood Policy



Responding to the political evolution in North Africa and the Arab states, EU launched a [revision](#) of the [European Neighbourhood Policy](#) (ENP) on 25 May 2011. This [proposal](#) by the European External Action Service and European Commission sets out the main priorities and directions of a revitalised ENP strategy which seeks to strengthen individual and regional relationships between the EU and countries in its neighbourhood through a ‘more funds for more reform’ approach -- making more additional funds available, but with more mutual accountability. ENP shall have stronger focus on democracy and civil and human rights; and on inclusive economic growth and sustainable development. This covers job creation, skills and employability, social protection, revitalizing sectors affected by recent crises, social dialogue, fundamental rights at work and the different dimensions of labour migration.



These priorities are closely related to the strategic objectives of the [ILO Decent Work Agenda](#) and ILO initiatives in North Africa and the Arab states and in non-EU countries in Eastern Europe. This opens perspectives for concrete ILO-EU/EU Member states cooperation in ENP.

### **ILO Labour Inspection Convention ratified by all 27 EU Member States**

With the recent ratification by the Czech Republic, all 27 EU Member States have now ratified ILO the Labour Inspection Convention No. 81. The Convention obliges the ILO Member States to maintain an effective system of labour inspections. This is an important step in the context of the EU internal market and in line with the EU support for the Decent Work Agenda. The ILO congratulates the EU and its Members States for this step and hopes that speedy ratifications of other landmark ILO Conventions, such as the 2006 Maritime Labour Convention, will follow soon.

### **President Sarkozy urges G20 to strengthen social dimension of globalization**



Mr Juan Somavia, ILO Director-General, has welcomed French President Nicolas Sarkozy's recognition of the key role a tripartite organization such as the ILO can play in strengthening the social dimension of globalization.

At the G20 Ministerial Meeting on policy coherence, on 23 and 24 May 2011 in Paris, the Head of State of France - which currently holds the G20's rotating presidency - stressed the need to "ensure that globalization draws upon social progress to boost economic progress", adding that

social progress is "the best way to ensure economic prosperity in the long-term." His remarks reflected the ILO's recent statements on social justice and decent work.

Addressing the development of social protection floors across the world, the French President hailed the "remarkable" work achieved by the global advisory group on social protection and highlighted the contribution of its chairperson, Ms Michelle Bachelet.

President Sarkozy also addressed the need for increased respect for rights at work, speaking out against "competition without rules that would drag everybody down."

### **Strong Benelux presence in membership of 2011-2014 ILO Governing Body**

On 6 June 2011 the [new members of the ILO Governing Body](#) (GB) were elected what resulted in a strong Benelux presence in the three groups (workers, employers, and governments).

For the Workers' Group Mr Luc Cortebeek, president of the Belgian Confederation of Christian Trade Unions (ACV-CSC) was elected Titular Member. The president of the Belgian General Confederation of Trade Unions (ABVV-FGTB), Mr Rudi De Leeuw, became Deputy Member. At the side of the Employers' Group Mr Kris De Meester, Manager Health and Safety Affairs of the Belgian Employers Confederation (VBO), was elected as Deputy Member. For the Government Group The Netherlands were elected as Deputy Member.

The ILO GB is tripartite and composed of 28 Titular Government Members and 28 Deputy Members, 14 Titular and 19 Deputy Members for the Workers' Group, and 14 Titular and 19 Deputy Members of the Employers Group. For the Government Group 10 of the titular seats are

permanently held by states of chief industrial importance without elections. The EU has observer status at both the ILO GB and the ILC and can actively intervene in the discussions.

ILO-Brussels congratulates the Benelux Members for their election and is pleased to notice that the Benelux is represented in all three groups.

### **Signature of Memorandum of Understanding between ILO and OECD**



The ILO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have signed a new [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to strengthen their cooperation and coordination in fields of common interest and activity.

In recent years, the ILO and the OECD have expanded their collaboration in a wide range of areas related to the world of work, including employment, social protection, labour migration, green jobs, occupational safety and health and statistics. The intensification of cooperation led both organizations to develop a new Memorandum of Understanding, which will replace the one signed in 1961.

### **Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries goes for “Partnership against Poverty”**



The [Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries](#) (LDC/IV) took place in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9-13 May 2011 under the theme “Partnership against Poverty”. The Conference

assessed the results of the 10-year action plan for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and new measures and strategies for the sustainable development of LDCs into the next decade were adopted.

The entire United Nations System, including the ILO, was mobilized to contribute expert knowledge in their respective areas and deliver a comprehensive and action-oriented outcome. EU Commissioners for Development and Trade, Mr Andris Piebalgs and Mr Karel De Gucht, participated at the Conference as well as ILO Director-General Juan Somavia.

In preparation of the Conference an ILO study on [Growth, Employment and Decent Work in the Least Developed Countries](#) was prepared. It reviews trends in growth, employment and decent work in LDCs, highlighting challenges and opportunities for structural transformation, job creation and poverty eradication and offers a portfolio of policy options for job creation and poverty reduction to be tailored to country needs and circumstances.

### **HIV/AIDS Workplace Policies Seminar**

On the occasion of the introduction of its policy on HIV/AIDS prevention and response at the workplace, the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) organised an international seminar on “HIV/AIDS Workplace Policies: Do’s & Don’ts” on 31 May 2011 in Brussels. At the seminar ILO/AIDS Director Dr. Sophia Kisting presented the 2010 ILO Recommendation No. 200: the Protection of Human Rights at Work in the Context of HIV. The ILO hopes that the BTC initiative will contribute to a better integration of HIV/AIDS prevention and response at the workplace in development cooperation by Belgium, other EU Member States and the EC.





### Labour Migration Academy: Enhancing Protection, Promoting Development and Facilitating Governance



From 4 to 15 July 2011 the Labour Migration Academy - organised by the International Training Centre (ITC) of the ILO - will take place in Turin, Italy. The Academy is a cluster of courses dealing with three thematic areas of migration: governance, protection and development. Tuition fee is 3,250 Euros and also includes accommodation and meals for two weeks. Please contact Ms Miriam Boudraa at [socpro@itcilo.org](mailto:socpro@itcilo.org) or Tel.: +39 011 6936359 for more information.

### ILO and the Netherlands

The National Federation of Christian Trade Unions in the Netherlands (CNV) will organise, in cooperation with the other Dutch trade unions, the Dutch employers and the government, a seminar on the 'Freedom of Trade Unions and Collective Bargaining worldwide: Does the ILO plays a significant role?'. This Dutch spoken event will take place on 20 June at 1pm in The Hague, The Netherlands. More information can be obtained at [vriendenilo@cnv.nl](mailto:vriendenilo@cnv.nl).

### International organizations expert meeting on EU Gender Equality Index



The [European Institute for Gender Equality](#), an agency that supports the EU and its Member States in their efforts to promote gender equality, organized a first international organizations expert meeting on the [EU Gender Equality Index](#) (EU

GEI) on 4 May in Vilnius, Lithuania. The EU GEI aims to make it easier to compare gender-related data at EU level. The discussion allowed experts to share and compare experiences and best practices in measuring gender equality; debate different perspectives; and define an exhaustive, relevant and comprehensive theoretical framework for gender equality within the EU 27 Member States. Ms Jane Hodges, Director of the ILO Bureau for Gender Equality, along with representatives from OECD, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the EU's Agency for Fundamental Rights and Social Watch participated and shared experiences on gender indicators tracked by their respective organization.

Read also: [ILO meets with European Institute for Gender Equality, ILO Geneva, 5-6 October 2010](#)

### Luxembourg academic session on the role of the ILO in the 21<sup>st</sup> century



On the occasion of the 100th session of the International Labour Conference, the Luxembourg Chamber of Employees held on 24 May in Luxembourg an academic session on the ILO and its role in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The session was attended by HRH the Grand Duke of Luxembourg and Luxembourg Labour Minister Nicolas Schmit, supporting the role of the ILO to defend social justice and employment.

### Development Policy Forum on Africa, Friends of Europe, 27 June 2011, Brussels



ILO Executive Director Assane Diop will participate on 28 June 2011 in the [session](#) on "Helping Africa to defeat the social odds". He will



present, amongst other things, the relevance of the social protection floor for Africa.

### **The 100<sup>th</sup> session of the International Labour Conference, June 2010**



The next edition of the newsletter will come back to the landmark 100<sup>th</sup> session of the ILC. The main items on the agenda are: a new comprehensive standard on domestic work, social protection, labour administration and inspection, the application of conventions and the report of the ILO Director General on “ A new era of social justice ”.

### **Scheduled meetings**

[List of scheduled ILO meetings](#)

### **Contact us**

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