

NEWSLETTER

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Open Trade and Social Protection are Complementary says WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy



“There is a tight connection between social protection and an open multilateral commercial system. The less there is social protection the more the protectionist temptation is strong. The more there is social protection the less the protectionist temptation is strong.” Mr Lamy said at the November 2010 session of the ILO Governing Body. This [statement](#) coincides with the [joint report](#) of the OECD, ILO, World Bank and WTO on “Seizing the benefits of trade for employment and growth” which was submitted in the eve of the G20 Seoul Summit. This report claims that open markets can contribute to growth and better employment outcomes if complementary action is taken at the national and international levels to facilitate adjustment and ensure that the benefits of trade are widely shared.

Launch of Global Wage Report



The financial and economic crisis has cut global wage growth by half in 2008 and 2009, says a new ILO report. The “[Global Wage Report 2010/2011](#)”

– Wage policies in times of crisis” shows that wage growth in Europe has been strongly affected. In the Baltic States and Ireland, wages experienced a dramatic fall. It furthermore showed that increasing inequality and wage moderation in the past decade had a negative impact on household consumption and aggregate demand. Hence the role of wages in the recovery from the economic crisis may not be underestimated.

The ILO report was warmly welcomed by European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion László Andor who participated at the Brussels’ launch on 15 December through a video conference from Strasbourg. At the launch a panel discussion on the report was organised with the participation of Daniel Vaughan-Whitehead, ILO Senior Wages Specialist, Maria Jepsen, Director of the European Trade Union Institute Research Department, Karel Lannoo, CEO of independent think tank Centre for European Policy Studies and Rudi Delarue, ILO-Brussels’ Director.

First ILO World Social Security Report



The recently launched ILO [World Social Security Report 2010/11](#) says that social security measures have played a critical role in reducing the social impact of economic crises both now and in the past. However renewed efforts are required to extend social security coverage to those excluded today, especially in low-income countries.

The report is the first in a series to be published every two years and presents a broad overview of the crucial role of social security in reducing the impact of economic crises. In addition, it also examines the gaps in access to social security programmes in areas such as health care, pensions, social assistance, and unemployment benefits. The report says that social security plays an important role in times of crisis, including the current one, as an “irreplaceable economic, social and political stabilizer” that provides income replacement and helps stabilize aggregate demand, without negatively effecting economic growth.

European Report on Development: Social protection as Africa’s best defence against poverty?



On 7 December the European Report on Development (ERD) was released during the [European Development Days](#) (EDD) in Brussels. The ILO contributed to the ERD during the consultative process. Michael Cichon, Director of the ILO Social Security Department, equally participated in the panel presenting and discussing the ERD at the EDD. The 2010 ERD is exploring what role social protection can play in reducing poverty and vulnerability and promoting inclusive development and social cohesion in Africa. It is also examining what the European Union can do to help through its development policy. Furthermore the ERD is looking at the cost and feasibility of such programmes and mechanisms in Africa and how they can be implemented in a sustainable manner. More information on the ERD initiative can be found on: <http://erd.eui.eu/>

At the EDD ILO chaired the panel on combating child labour in the cacao industry in West Africa and presented a renewed sub regional approach based on promoting decent work in the cacao communities.

G20 highlights its support for job-rich recovery, social protection and decent work



G20 leaders met on 11-12 November 2010 in Seoul, Korea, with a variety of topics on their agenda that are relevant for the world of work: ensuring the economic recovery; strong, sustainable and balanced growth; international financial reform and regulation; trade; and development. ILO Director General J. Somavia participated in the Summit.

Within the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth, as launched in September 2009 during the G20 Pittsburgh Summit, the [G20 Leaders committed themselves](#) “to put jobs at the heart of the recovery, to provide social protection, decent work and also to ensure accelerated growth in low income countries.”

G20 and European Commission commitments to inclusive growth and sustainable development



The latest G20 Seoul Summit delivered the [Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth](#) to help developing countries to build the capacity to achieve and maximize their growth potential. It is the first time that the G20 officially deals with development issues. This complements the G20 commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

While development came at the Seoul Summit for the first time on the forefront at the G20 meetings, the European Commission (EC) launched a broad consultation through its [Green Paper](#) on inclusive growth and sustainable development. The Green Paper "EU development policy in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development – Increasing the impact of EU development policy" has the objective to look into how the European Union can improve the impact of its development policy, and how it can best support developing countries' efforts in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth.

ILO report illustrates “volatile and uneven recovery” across economic sectors in 2010

New data from the ILO's Sectoral Activities Department shows that employment is recovering unevenly across sectors in the first half of 2010 and

will continue to do so over the remainder of the year.

The [ILO report](#) based on data from 13 sectors in 51 developed and developing countries says that the pace of recovery is slower than what is required to restore the millions of jobs lost since the onset of the crisis. It states that while construction and manufacturing have lost a total of more than 5 million jobs in the first quarter of 2010 (compared to 2009), the health sector has added almost 2.8 million jobs during the same period though compared to 2008. It furthermore concludes that jobs in advanced economies are generally subdued in a number of sectors, whereas in emerging and developing economies the recovery seems to be progressing more rapidly. The ILO paper also analyzes the changes in labour markets in terms of hours of work. It says that after falling consecutively throughout 2009, hours of work began to increase again in the first and second quarters of 2010 in almost all sectors with the exception of agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Global South-South Development Expo



With the slogan “*Solutions! Solutions! Solutions!*” the [Global South-South Development \(GSSD\) Expo 2010](#) took place on 22-26 November in Geneva. The GSSD Expo is organised by the United Nations (UN) and provides a forum to enable developing countries and their development partners, including donor agencies, organizations of the UN system, and private-sector and civil society

organizations, to showcase their evidence-based South-South development solutions.

The Expo organised [solution forums](#) on social protection and decent work, food security, climate change and environment, HIV/AIDS, global health, and education. It showcased over 100 partnerships and solutions to poverty challenges that have been developed by developing countries themselves.

ILO participates at 3rd Africa-EU Summit in Tripoli



The [third Africa-EU Summit](#) was organised in Tripoli, Libya, on 29-30 November 2010. The Summit was placed under the theme “Investment, economic growth and job creation”, and reviewed the AU-EU partnership agreement. This partnership is composed of eight thematic partnerships from which “migration, mobility and employment” is very relevant for the ILO. At the Summit African and European Partners pushed for a strengthened partnership and defined the priorities of their cooperation for the years to come. These priorities, such as employment, were translated into a three-year action plan (2011-13) which was, together with the [Tripoli Declaration](#), adopted at the end of the Summit.

ILO, incl. ILO-Brussels, actively contributed to the Summit, and was satisfied by the call to address the problems of brain drain and youth employment. The next Africa-EU Summit will take place in 2013 in Brussels.

European Workshop on Social Dialogue in EU 12 and Candidate Countries



Within the framework of the European Commission (EC) funded project on sectoral social dialogue in new EU member states and EU candidate countries, a workshop focusing on strengthening the capacity of social partners in these countries with a view to foster their involvement in EU social dialogue was held from 17 to 19 November in Brussels. This closing workshop was organised by the Workers Programme of the ITC-ILO, in partnership with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and ILO-Brussels office, and gathered over 30 participants from Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, FYR Macedonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey. At the workshop, a Report based on an on-line survey on sectoral social dialogue in EU 12 and candidate countries was presented, highlighting the specific needs of workers' organisations and providing guidance for future capacity building assistance.

ILO contribution to the EU CSR multi-stakeholder forum and to the BSCI annual meeting

The [European Multi-stakeholder Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility](#) (CSR) is organized by the European Commission and provides a platform for open discussion between a range of actors – Members of the European Parliament, national governments, business and investor representatives, academics and civil society stakeholders – on how to promote an even

stronger uptake of responsible practices among European businesses. At the latest session of the Forum, which took place on 29-30 November in Brussels, Ricarda McFalls, head of the ILO Multinational Enterprises Programme, highlighted the role of international labour standards, internationally agreed CSR instruments such as the ILO Tripartite Declaration on Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, technical cooperation and public private partnerships in the context of the global supply chain. ILO also presented its initiative "helpdesk for business on international labour standards" and its new website for business: www.ilo.org/business

In addition the ILO participated in the annual meeting of the Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI), organised in Brussels on 23 November 2010. ILO presented the key note message.

Euromed Labour Ministers highlight priority challenges for employment and social policies



On 21-22 November 2010 the Employment and Labour Ministers of the Euro-Mediterranean partners met for their Second Conference under the [Union for the Mediterranean](#) (UfM) in Brussels. The conference, hosted by Belgium, assessed the commitments made for action plans for jobs, employability and decent work adopted during the First Conference of November 2008 in Marrakech. At the Second Conference the Ministers agreed on

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[nine policy priorities](#) to ensure that the economic recovery goes hand in hand with the creation of more decent jobs and with poverty alleviation. These nine priorities are boosting employment creation to avoid a jobless recovery, enhancing decent work opportunities, tackling high youth unemployment and under-employment, enhancing women's participation in economic and social life, skills development matching the changing needs of labour markets, enhancing the capacity of public employment services, prioritizing poverty alleviation, modernising social protection and developing a social protection floor, and promoting effective social dialogue. The ILO Executive Director for Social Dialogue, Georg Dragnich, participated in the Euromed social dialogue forum on 21 November 2010 and presented the upcoming ILO initiatives on social dialogue and labour administration in the region.

ILO gives presentation at Employment Week on measures and skills required to move to a low carbon economy



At the Employment Week 2010 on 24-25 November, Ms Christine Hofmann from the Skills and Employability Department of the ILO gave a presentation on [Exploring the new measures and skills required to move to a low carbon economy](#). At the presentation Ms Hofmann explained that green structural change affects jobs. While the good news is that the newly created jobs will offset those lost, the bad news is that those who will get green jobs are not necessarily those who will have lost their jobs. Consequently the danger of temporary

or permanent job losses has to be recognized in a socially responsible restructuring. More information is available at: <http://www.ilo.org/skills>

New training by ILO Brussels on International Labour Standards, 14 January 2011



Due to the success of the ILO-Brussels' course on the fundamental international labour conventions and the ILO's supervisory system held on 8 October, a second training will be organised on 14 January 2011 from 09:30am to 12:30pm, at Residence Palace, rue de la Loi 155, UNRIC, 8th floor. The training course is open to the public and will be given in English by the ILO-Brussels' Director Rudi Delarue. Questions and answers are possible in French as well. Registration for this free course can be done the latest by 11 January 2011 at brussels@ilo.org.

High-level conference on Inequalities in the World of Work to take place in Brussels on 20-21 January 2011

A high-level conference on "Inequalities in the World of Work: The Effects of the Crisis" will take place on 20-21 January in Brussels. The conference, organised by the ILO in cooperation with the European Commission, will provide an in-depth overview of the effects that the crisis may be having on inequalities in the world of work. A limited number of places are still available. For information and registration contact Kristine



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*for the European Union
and the Benelux countries*

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Falciola (Falciola@ilo.org) at the ILO Department for Working Conditions.

During the conference a press moment will be organised. More information will follow.

Best wishes for 2011

The ILO-Brussels' Office wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Scheduled meetings

[List of scheduled ILO meetings](#)

Contact us

For more information on the ILO's activities, please contact:

ILO-Brussels
Rue Aimé Smekensstraat 40
B-1030 Brussels
Belgium

Phone: +32 (0)2 736 59 42
Fax: +32 (0)2 735 48 25

Email: ilo-brussels-press@ilo.org

Website: <http://www.ilo.org/brussels>