

ILO, EU and Tunisia sign ambitious programme on employment creation.....	1
ILO World of Work Report calls for job-centred approach in the EU.....	1
New EU employment package: a renewed focus on decent jobs.....	2
Flanders, SERV and ILO: an increasing partnership	2
UN joint commentary on EU trafficking Directive.....	2
European Commission adopts proposals on Maritime Labour Convention	3
Belgium and ILO signed agreement on youth employability in Congo.....	3
ILO at Belgian Stakeholders Meeting on Development Cooperation.....	3
ILO-Brussels presentation “The role of social partners in sustainable development and inclusive growth”	4
The ILO responds to EC Consultation on civil society organisations in development	4
ILO expresses key messages for Rio+20	4
Towards Rio+20: ETUC-ETUI Conference on a Sustainable New Deal for Europe.....	4
OSE Lunchtime Session “Is the European Governance of the Crisis consistent with International Labour Standards?”.....	5
ILO-Brussels searches intern.....	5
Scheduled meetings	5
Contact us	5

ILO, EU and Tunisia sign ambitious programme on employment creation



On 30 March 2012, the International Labour Office (ILO), the European Union (EU) and Tunisia signed an ambitious programme aiming at promoting employment creation through labour intensive public works in disadvantaged regions and urban areas in Tunisia. The programme includes institutional support and capacity building. The objective is to improve the living conditions of the population in these areas. Both the [ILO response](#) and the [EU’s response](#) to the challenges raised by the Arab Spring highlighted the importance of decent job creation for youth, entrepreneurship and support for social and economic development and governance.

ILO World of Work Report calls for job-centred approach in the EU



On 30 April 2012, the ILO launched its [World of Work Report 2012](#). A new and more problematic phase of the global jobs crisis is emerging, warns the report. Under pressure of ambivalent messages from the financial markets, Europe is stuck in an austerity trap affecting negatively private investment. The World of Work Report says that fiscal austerity, combined with labour market deregulation, will not improve employment

prospects. The World of Work Report, containing a special [EU brief](#), recommends the EU to adopt a comprehensive and coordinated strategy with jobs at its core. EU Employment, Social Affairs and Social Inclusion Commissioner Andor referred explicitly to the World of Work Report in his [presentation](#) of the new EU employment package to the European Employment Committee on 2 May 2012.

New EU employment package: a renewed focus on decent jobs



The European Commission (EC) proposed on 18 April 2012 a new [employment package](#) identifying concrete measures to boost jobs. The ILO Office welcomes this renewed focus on a stronger employment and social dimension and the involvement of employers' and workers' representatives in setting and implementing EU priorities.

The new package is in line with the ILO's plea for a comprehensive EU strategy with jobs at its core, as formulated in the [World of Work report 2012](#). Along the same lines, the [EU social partners' joint work programme for 2012-2014](#) addresses EU labour markets with a view to contribute to growth, employment and social cohesion. It includes also initiatives aiming at strengthening the role and capacities of social partners and social dialogue, both within the EU and in the EU neighbourhood such as in North Africa and the Middle East.

Flanders, SERV and ILO: an increasing partnership



The Government of Flanders, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Social and Economic Council of Flanders (SERV) jointly organized a Conference on Green jobs in Flanders, highlighting the importance of skills development, anticipating labour market changes and promoting social dialogue as crucial conditions in a just transition towards a green economy.

The conference marked the increasing partnership between the ILO, the Government of Flanders and the SERV. In March 2011, a new cooperation agreement was signed, placing a strong focus on the promotion of labour standards and sustainable development as well as social dialogue. Learn more about this partnership in the [ILO-Flanders cooperation results brochure](#).

UN joint commentary on EU trafficking Directive



Six UN agencies joined forces in the development of a [joint UN Commentary](#), which was launched on 28 March 2012 in the European Parliament. The agencies UNHCR, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNODC, ILO and UN Women welcome the EU Directive and provide additional guidance on the application of a human

rights-based approach to the transposition in national legislation and its implementation by Member States. Currently, the EU Directive is being transposed into national legislation by the 26 EU Member States who are taking part in the Directive.

European Commission adopts proposals on Maritime Labour Convention



The European Commission (EC) has adopted on 23 March 2012 two important legislative proposals aiming at implementing the enforcement, control and inspection part of the [ILO Maritime Labour Convention \(MLC\), 2006](#). The EC adopted one proposal for a [new EU Directive on flag state control](#) and one for a [Directive amending the existing port state control Directive](#). This package will establish a comprehensive minimum level playing field on port state control and flag state control directly influenced by the MLC. It builds also on the EU maritime sector social partners agreement, implemented by [EU Directive 2009/13](#) addressing many substantive themes covered by the MLC. The ILO Office hopes that this new package will boost the speedy ratification by those EU Member states that have not yet ratified the Convention.

Belgium and ILO signed agreement on youth employability in Congo



On 3 April 2012, the International Labour Office (ILO) and the Belgian minister for Development Cooperation signed an agreement on promoting employability and enhancing job creation for young people in Katanga, Congo. The three-year programme (see [background note - French](#)) will focus on reinforcing entrepreneurial capacities of young women and men, improving the access to microfinance for young people, increasing the employability of young people who have completed vocational training, and ameliorating labour market governance at the provincial level. The Belgian government funds 5,5 million dollars.

ILO at Belgian Stakeholders Meeting on Development Cooperation



On 8 May, the [5th Stakeholders Meeting of the Belgian Development Cooperation](#) took place in the Egmont Palace with the central theme on policy coherence for development. The High Level Panel included several UN representatives. Emily Sims, ILO Senior Specialist at the Multinational Enterprises unit participated in a workshop on “policy coherence for development: trade and investments”. She outlined how Decent Work can be used as the concept around which policy coherence can be built, notably through its focus on economic

growth and employment, its participatory process and its broad reach.

ILO-Brussels presentation “The role of social partners in sustainable development and inclusive growth”

The ILO-Brussels, with the European Commission (EC), the rotating Council presidency and the Danish employers’ confederation, participated at the ITUC Trade Union Development Cooperation Network on 8 May 2012 in Helsingør, Denmark (see [presentation](#)).

The meeting reflected on better integrating social dialogue in EU development cooperation policies and programmes. Social dialogue is already part of EU internal policies, of EU outreach through bilateral relations with third countries and regions such as EU-Asia (ASEM) and EU-Latin America, and of development cooperation by EU Member states. However, social dialogue, capacity building of social partners and related labour international standards are not yet very present in EU development cooperation. The [EU Agenda for Change](#), presented by the EC in October 2011, recognises the role of employers’ and workers’ organisations and social dialogue.

The ILO responds to EC Consultation on civil society organisations in development



The ILO-Brussels Office [responded](#) to the European Commission (EC) Consultation Paper on civil society organisations (CSOs) in development. The ILO emphasized the important role of workers’ and employers’ organisations and of social dialogue in

strengthening democracy and governance. The response also evoked the conclusions of the May 2011 EC-ILO Annual High Level Meeting underlining that both institutions will cooperate on promoting social dialogue and international labour standards in EU development cooperation and external assistance.

ILO expresses key messages for Rio+20



The ILO Governing Body (GB) at its March 2012 session expressed support for the participation of the ILO in the Rio+20 preparations. The GB identified [key ILO messages](#), including the need for a strong social pillar with decent work as a conceptual framework. This framework should integrate the economic, social and environmental pillars and provide a pathway towards social inclusion and poverty reduction. The GB also stressed the importance of social dialogue as a contributor to sustainable development.

Towards Rio+20: ETUC-ETUI Conference on a Sustainable New Deal for Europe

From 12-13 March 2012, the ILO-Brussels participated in a [debate](#) organised by ETUI and ETUC at the Danish Metalworkers' School in Jørlunde, Denmark. The conference, organized in the context of the Danish EU Council Presidency and serving as a preparation of the European trade union movement's activities in the run-up to Rio+20, brought together the European Commission, the EU Council Presidency, some EU Member states negotiators involved in Rio+20, key academic thinkers and trade union activists advocating for the promotion of the sustainable development.

The main outcome of the two-day debate was that clear targets and more political and operational emphasis on sustainable growth, employment and social justice are needed if the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012 is to become a real success.

OSE Luchtime Session “Is the European Governance of the Crisis consistent with International Labour Standards?”



During a European Social Observatory (OSE) [debate \(French link\)](#) on 15 March 2012 in Brussels, Rudi Delarue, ILO-Brussels Director, and George Dassis, President of the Worker's Group of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) exchanged their views regarding the European economic governance and its consistency with international labour standards.

Rudi Delarue gave an overview of the international legal framework governing labour relations, outlining a set of ILO conventions of great importance for the economic governance, such as those focusing on the freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining, employment policy, minimum wage fixing and social security minimum standards. He emphasised the extent to which the EU is involved in the work of ILO and the impact that ILO Conventions have on EU legislation. According to George Dassis, the ILO can play an important role in the protection of fundamental labour rights in the EU.

ILO-Brussels searches intern

We are searching for a [technical cooperation trainee](#) from September 2012 - February 2013. Applications for the policy traineeship should reach us as soon as possible. Applications for the technical cooperation traineeship should reach us before 30 June 2012.

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: www.ilo.org/brussels