



Social Dialogue as a driver in shaping and improving employment and working conditions in the EU

Organised by Eurofound in cooperation with the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Date: 23 June 2014
Time: 09.30 – 17.45
Venue: Zappeion Exhibition Hall, Room 5
Ethnikos Kipos, Athens 105 57
Languages: EN, EL

Programme

09.00 **Registration**

09.30 **Opening**

Ioannis Vrotsis, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Welfare, Greece
Juan Menéndez-Valdés, Director, Eurofound

09.45 **Introductory remarks**

Zeta Emilianidou, Minister for Labour and Social Insurance, Cyprus

Chair: **Juan Menéndez-Valdés**, Director, Eurofound

10.00 **Session 1: On the path to recovery – the role of social dialogue?**

This session will explore the different measures countries have pursued in order to restore their economies and the role of social dialogue. Presentations will focus on the European overview and two different scenarios from Ireland and Portugal.

Chair: **Stavroula Demetriades**, Senior Programme Manager, Eurofound

Christian Welz, Senior Programme Manager, Eurofound

Manuel Marcelino Perata da Pena Costa, Vice-President, Confederation of Portuguese Commerce and Services

Liam Kelly, Head of Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue Policy, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Ireland

10.45 **Session 2: On the path to recovery – social dialogue and the Greek experience**

On the path to recovery and addressing the challenges of a changing world of work and the demands for growth, development and prosperity, this session will examine the role social dialogue can play in Greece and how social dialogue is part of the solution.

Chair: **Konstantinos Papadakis**, Senior Liaison Office for Cyprus and Greece, International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Harry Kyriazis, Executive Vice-Chairman, Hellenic Federation of Enterprises, (SEV)

Giorgos Kavathas, President, Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen, and Merchants (GSEVEE)

Vassilis Korkidis, President, National Confederation of Hellenic Commerce (ESEE)

Giorgos Vernicos, General Secretary, Association of Greek Tourism Enterprises (SETE)

Giannis Panagopoulos, President, General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE)

Odysseas Drivalas, President, Confederation of Greek Public Servants' Unions (ADEDY)

11.45 **Coffee break**

12.00 **Panel discussion: The changing world of work and challenges for social dialogue**

This panel will look at practices that work in various countries, such as skills development and lifelong learning, apprenticeships, sector-specific approaches, mobility, information and consultation and employee involvement.

Chair: **Bernd Brandl**, Senior Lecturer in Human Resource Management, University of York

Maria Dotsika, Mediator and Arbitrator of Collective Labour Law Disputes, Organisation of Mediation and Arbitration (OMED)

Valia Aranitou, Associate Professor, University of Crete

Dionyssis N. Gravaris, Research Director, IME-GSEVEE/Hellenic Confederation of Professionals Craftsmen and Merchants

Zoe Lanara, International Relations Secretary, GSEE

Rena Bardani, Director of Social Affairs, Hellenic Federation of Enterprises, (SEV)

Valeria Pulignano, Professor of Labour Sociology and Industrial Relations, University of Leuven

13.00 **Keynote address: Social Europe in a climate of austerity**

Sir Christopher Pissarides, Regius Professor of Economics, London School of Economics and Professor of European Studies, University of Cyprus.

Chair: **Tom Bevers**, Chair of the Employment Committee of the European Union (EMCO)

13.30 **Lunch**

15.00 **Session 3: The role of EU level social dialogue**

This session will explore EU-level social dialogue and how the EU-level social partners can be involved more effectively in socio-economic dialogue, as well as looking at the instruments that can support national-level social dialogue.

Chair: **Jean-Paul Tricart**, Head of Unit, European Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Patrick Itschert, Deputy General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

Nils Trampe, Chair of Industrial Relations Working Group, BUSINESSEUROPE

Harald Wiedenhofer, General Secretary of the European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food, Agriculture and Tourism sectors (EFFAT)

Ilaria Savoini, Senior Advisor, EuroCommerce

16.00 **Coffee break**

16.15 **Session 4: The social dimension of the EU and the challenges for social dialogue**

The background to this session is that despite growth in the European economy, poverty and social exclusion in the EU have deteriorated during the crisis and are showing little sign of improvement, with unemployment levels still high, especially among young people. This session will look at the kind of society and economy European citizens wish to live in, how to secure a genuine European social dimension that is sustainable and why social dialogue is more relevant today than before the crisis. Is it time to change the narrative?

Chair: **David Foden**, Head of Unit, Working Conditions and Industrial Relations, Eurofound

Introductory speaker: **Heinz Koller**, Regional Director for Europe, International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Roberto Pedersini, Associate Professor, University of Milan

Isabel da Costa, National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) Senior Researcher at Institutions and Historical Dynamics of Economics (IDHE)

Matina Yannakourou, Assistant Professor of Labour Law, European University Cyprus

Fabiana Pierini, Policy Officer, DG Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission

17.30 **Closing remarks**

Ioannis Vrotsis, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Welfare, Greece

17.45 **Networking reception and buffet supper**