

DECENT WORK FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS



Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue

International seminar at the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the ILO Brussels, 14th of May 2009

PRESENTATION

Proportionally the number of workers engaged in one of the numerous kinds of domestic work is increasing rapidly all over the world but the contexts differ. Domestic work is particularly characterised by the fact that it is carried out alone, often by women, at the home of the private customer and that it consists in caretaking and services. Domestic work is in most cases not considered as a fully-fledged labour relation and is therefore underpaid and often informal, thus exposing the workers to an unfair, unjust, and often abusive treatment.

On the basis of its Report, the International Labour Bureau is presently consulting the Governments and the social partners' organisations of all the countries in view of the elaboration of a new international labour standard on decent work for domestic workers.

The seminar is intended to clarify the points of interest and the different aspects of the issue and hear testimonies, coming from Belgium as well as from abroad, and to submit essential elements for an appropriate international policy.

WHEN AND WHERE ?

Seminar of Thursday, May 14th, 2009
FPS Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue
Auditorium «Storck»
E. Blerotstreet , 1 at 1070 Brussels
(facing the main entrance/exit of the Brussels «Midi» station)

REGISTRATION

Obligatory prior registration until the 13th of May 2009 at the very last.

Participation to the seminar is free. Prior registration is obligatory due to limited number of seats.

Registration is only possible by mail at the following address:
bart.peirlinck@emploi.belgique.be

At your registration please mention the following data: name and first name, function and organisation, phone number, e-mail

ORGANISATION



Federal Public Service
**Employment, Labour
and Social Dialogue**

PROGRAMME

9h00 Welcome

9h30

First session: Introductory speeches

Presidency: F. Vandamme (FPS Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue - International Affairs)

- Why this seminar?
P. P. Maeter, President of the FPS Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue
- ILB Report (Report IV (1) Decent Work for Domestic Workers) presented for deliberation to the Governments and the social partners, *M. Tomei (ILB)*
- The evolution of the concept of domestic work in Belgium: labour law and supervision, *M. De Gols, Director-general (Individual Labour Relations and M. Aseglio, Director-general (Social Legislation Supervision)*

10h30

Coffee break

11h00

Second session : Echo's on domestic work worldwide

Presidency: Mr R. Delarue, Director of the ILO Liaison Office for the Benelux and the European Union, Brussels

- Domestic workers in Belgium: an outline and recommendations, *S. Craenen, OCRA*
- Legislative initiatives from the Moroccan Government in the field of the protection of domestic workers, *Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training of Morocco*
- Organisation and defense of rights of the domestic workers in Niger, *Issifou Laoualy (Workers' Confederation of Niger)*
- Points of interest in the field of domestic work in the South: 3 testimonies, 3 continents, *A. Seron, National Centre for Co-operation in Development-11.11.11*
- Trade-Unions and international domestic workers' organisation, *P. Stalpaert, International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF)*

13h00

Lunch

14h00

Third session: Elements in reply of an international policy

Presidency: P.P.Maeter (FPS Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue)

- Points of interest in the field of improvement of living and working conditions for domestic workers, *fgtb (Belgian socialist trade-unions)*
- Gender perspective in domestic work, *F. Goffinet, Belgian Institute for Equal Opportunities for women and men*
- Domestic work and trafficking of humans, *P. Lecocq (Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism)*
- The specific question of work in embassies and diplomatic law, *N. Angelet, Lawyer and Professor of international law at the Brussels ULB University*

15h30

Discussion

16h00

Continuation of the session

- How can a new international labour standard promote international syndicalism: *L. Cortebeeck, Spokesperson of the workers at the Committee on the Application of conventions and Recommendations of the International Labour Conference of ILO*

16h45

The sense and the possible orientation of a new international labour standard

- Mr J. RHMANI, Minister of Employment and Vocational Training of the Kingdom of Morocco*
- Mrs J. Milquet, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Employment and Equal Opportunities of Belgium*

17h15

Drink