



Outcome of the G20 summit



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The Director-General of the ILO, Juan Somavia, welcomed the outcome of the G20 summit, commenting in a [press release](#) that “the leaders of the G20 have made significant progress in consolidating a coordinated international response to the deepening global crisis”. In the [Declaration](#) adopted at the end of the Summit, the G20 leaders commit to helping those affected by the crisis by creating employment opportunities and income support measures.

They call upon the ILO to work with other organisations to assess the actions taken and those required for the future. The G20 Declaration also supports discussion on a charter for sustainable economic activity.

Global employment summit during the International Labour Conference

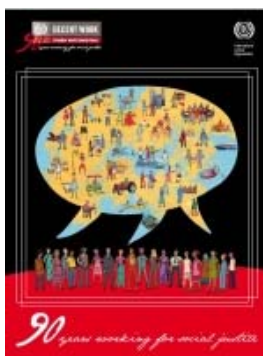


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The ILO Governing Body has modified the agenda of the next [International Labour Conference](#) (ILC), which will be held from 3 to 19 June 2009, to allow discussion of the actions that must be taken to overcome the social and employment-related challenges connected to the financial and economic crisis. The ILC will also look at the Global Jobs Pact. A global summit on the ‘Dealing with the jobs crisis’ will take place as part of the ILC plenary session on

15 and 16 June 2009. The other topics dealt with at this ILC will be gender equality at the heart of decent work and the preparation, at the first reading, of a Recommendation on HIV/AIDS in the workplace.

Belgium’s contribution to the ILO’s 90th anniversary



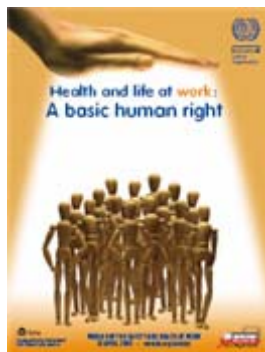
To mark 90 years of the ILO, the Federal Public Service for Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue, together with the Belgian Labour Relations Association, organised a seminar titled “The influence of the ILO – a Belgian academic contribution to the 90th anniversary of the organisation”. Participants discussed a range of topics including social regulation, tripartism in Belgium and the ILO’s influence in Europe and worldwide. The Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Employment and Equal Opportunities, Joëlle Milquet, stressed the central role of ILO in responding to the financial and economic crisis, humanising globalisation and strengthening global

governance. She announced that implementing decent work will constitute an important theme for the upcoming Belgian EU Presidency in 2010.

Latest information on the crisis

The ILO is continuing to update its [information site](#) on the world jobs crisis resulting from the economic and financial crisis. One particularly interesting feature of this site is the [analysis](#) of the impact of the crisis on migrant workers. The ILO has also updated its [guide](#) on measures that should be taken to reduce the impact of mass layoffs on workers, communities and enterprises. Finally, an [interview](#) with Bernd Balkenhol, Chief of the ILO's Social Finance Programme, takes stock of the impact of the crisis on microfinance.

Health and life at work: a basic human right



28 April of each year is the World Day for Health and Safety at Work. This initiative intends to attract attention worldwide to the promotion and creation of decent and safe work and also aims to reduce the number of work-related deaths. Global statistics in this regard are shocking: every 15 seconds, a worker dies as a result of a work-related illness or accident, and 160 workers have a work-related accident. The ILO has just published a [brochure](#) summarising the issue of health and safety at work and the possible effects of the economic crisis in this respect. The key message of this publication is that even in times of change, health, safety and life at work remain basic human rights. You

can find other materials (e.g. poster, bookmark, postcard) linked to the World Day on 28 April on the website of the ILO's [SafeWork](#) programme.

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) have marked the 28th of April with an event in the International Trade Union House.

Impact of the world food crisis on decent work

Since 2007, escalating food prices have created budget turmoil, trade imbalances and inflation and provoked panic and social unrest in some countries. Although bumper harvests of rice and wheat in 2008 may have alleviated some of the concern, economies are now grappling with a worsening global economic crisis. In an [interview](#) published on the ILO's website, Dr Riswanul Islam, Special Advisor on Growth, Employment and Poverty Reduction, took stock of the origins of the food crisis, its impact on decent work and poverty and its connections with the economic and financial crisis.

International conference on decent domestic work

The Belgian Minister for Employment and Equal Opportunities is organising an international conference on decent domestic work in Brussels on 14 May 2009. The conference has two main aims: to organise an event within the framework of the ILO's 90th anniversary and to contribute to the European Union's interest in a draft version of a new ILO international labour standard on the subject (discussions on this standard will be held during the ILCs in 2010 and 2011). Work will be based on a [report](#) prepared by the ILO – this report is currently the subject of consultation with governments and the social partners. The agenda for the

conference intends to reflect Belgium's interest in the issue and attempt to clarify some essential elements of appropriate international policy. Contributions by various partners will provide an insight into the situation in other regions of the world, such as Morocco.

The conference will take place at the FPS Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue, Storck Room, 1st Floor, 1 rue Ernest Blérot (near Midi station, place Horta), 1070 Brussels. For contact and registration, send an e-mail to Els.Uytterhoeven@werk.belgie.be.

Creation of a helpdesk on decent work in companies

The ILO's Multinational Enterprises Programme has created a [helpdesk](#) to answer questions on implementing the principles of decent work in company operations. This service is available free of charge to company managers, workers and workers' and employers' organisations. However, it is important to note that although this service provides relevant guidelines, it cannot endorse a company's actions in any domain.

New initiatives for people with disabilities

On behalf of the United Nations, the ILO participated in the launch of the [European Consortium of Foundations on Human Rights and Disability](#) at the European Parliament buildings in Brussels on 1 April. The Consortium aims to promote the ratification and application of the [United Nations on the rights of persons with disabilities](#), which came into force on 3 May 2008. The ILO also presented a recent [publication](#) that reviews the updated ILO and UN instruments aiming to protect people with disabilities. The ILO is part of the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which published a joint [statement](#) of commitment to the Convention.

Scheduled meetings

Please [click here](#) for a list of scheduled ILO meetings for 2009.

Contact us

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

ILO Brussels
Rue Aimé Smekens 40
B-1030 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: + 32 (0)2 736 59 42
Fax: +32 (0)2 735 48 25
E-mail: brussels@ilo.org
Website: www.ilo.org