



The ILO adopts a Global Jobs Pact



On 19 June, the [International Labour Conference](#) of the ILO adopted a [Global Jobs Pact](#) designed to guide regional, national and international policies that aim to stimulate economic recovery, create jobs and provide protection to working people and their families. The Pact proposes a range of crisis-response measures that countries can adapt to their specific needs and situation. It calls on governments, trade unions and employers'

associations, as well as international and regional organisations, to work together to collectively tackle the global jobs crisis through policies in line with the Decent Work Agenda. Tripartite delegations from the 183 ILO member states took part in the Conference. The EU was also actively involved in the negotiation of the Pact.

Summit on the jobs crisis



Nine heads of state and government, six vice-presidents, labour ministers and leaders of employers' and workers' organisations met in Geneva from 15 to 17 June for a [Summit on the Global Jobs Crisis](#) which was organised as part of the [International Labour Conference](#) (ILC). This Summit voiced strong support for the Global Jobs Pact and firmly backed a greater involvement of the ILO in the follow-up to the G20 summit in London in April which, in terms of employment and social protection, called on the ILO "working with other

relevant organizations, to assess the actions taken and those required for the future".

HIV/AIDS and gender equality on the agenda of the ILC



The ILC featured a first discussion about a new international labour standard on HIV/AIDS. The envisaged Recommendation could include provisions to increase the contribution of the world of work to universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. A second and final discussion on the Recommendation will be held in June 2010.

The ILC also adopted [conclusions](#) regarding gender equality in the world of work. They stress that while the global economic crisis is jeopardising the fragile gains made in empowering women, it also provides an opportunity to develop new gender equality policies. When the conclusions were adopted, the European Commission announced in a statement that it firmly supported them.

Report of the Committee on the Application of Standards



The ILC Committee on the Application of Standards examined 25 individual cases. With regard to Burma/Myanmar, it stated that the few measures taken by the government to combat forced labour were completely inadequate. It also reiterated that the persistence of forced labour could not be dissociated from the complete lack of freedom of association and the systematic persecution of those who tried to organise. The Committee also called for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners and of trade union activists.

The Committee also expressed concerns about respect for the right of association in Belarus (where however some progress should be noted with regard to process but not yet on substance) and Turkey. The Committee asked the Turkish government to review all the cases involving the imprisonment of trade unionists, with a view to securing their release and to making significant progress in terms of legislative reform and practical application of the law. A high-level bipartite mission will visit Turkey to evaluate the situation there. The ILO is also concerned by the freedom of association situation in Guatemala.

Trade union blogs on the ILC

The Belgian trade unions kept blogs throughout the International Labour Conference. [Click here](#) for the blog of the Christian Confederation of Trade Unions (ACV-CSC) led by its president Luc Cortebeek, who is also spokesman for the Workers' Group at the ILO Standards Committee, and [click here](#) for the blog of the General Federation of Labour of Belgium (ABVV-FGTB).

EU-ILO cooperation striving for more decent work in ACP countries

From 22 to 25 June, the European Commission (EuropeAid) and the International Labour Office (ILO) organised a seminar on employment, social protection and decent work in ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries. The participants emphasised the significance of the Global Jobs Pact and also pointed out that in many cases the EU and the ILO share the same views on employment, employability, social protection and other issues related to decent work such as social dialogue and fundamental social rights. The European Commission and the ILO agreed to consult one another and work together more in the field in partner countries with a view to exchanging their respective expertise and initiatives, notably within the framework of the mid term review of the Country Strategy Papers.

Global employment trends

In its [Global Employment Trends Update](#) (May 2009), the ILO revised its unemployment projections upwards to levels ranging from 210 million to 239 million unemployed worldwide in 2009, corresponding to global unemployment rates of between 6.5% and 7.4%. The rise in the number of people seeking work will most probably be between 29 million and 59 million. In addition, according to the ILO report, 200 million workers are at risk of joining the ranks of

people living on less than two US dollars a day. In the 'Developed Economies & European Union' region, total employment is projected to decrease this year between 1.3% and 2.7%.

European Forum on the Rights of the Child



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On 18 June, the European Commission organised the Fourth Meeting of the European Forum on the Rights of the Child, with child labour as its central focus. Although this year sees the 10th anniversary of [ILO Convention n 182](#) on the worst forms of child labour, the ILO estimates that some 250 million children are still working, and that 126 million of them are forced to perform dangerous tasks. Child labour also exist in parts of Europe, where it is often less visible than in other parts of the world. The European Forum specifically addressed the contribution of social protection and corporate social responsibility to the fight against child labour.

More decent work in the Africa-EU partnership

A workshop about the 7th EU-Africa Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment was held in Brussels on 4 June, at the initiative of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The ILO, the social partners and the African Union also took part in the event. The workshop stressed the need to activate the partnership, to include decent work as one of its themes and to get labour market players and institutions more involved. One of the concrete initiatives announced by the European Commission is a workshop on decent work in Nairobi (Kenya) in the first half of 2010.

The impact of climate change on employment

The European Commission organised a forum to look at the impact of climate change on employment, in Brussels, on 22 and 23 June, during which the ILO intervened. It addressed a number of issues such as job cuts and job creation due to climate change; green jobs; how skills and qualifications will have to evolve; and what role the social partners can play to help in this regard.

Scheduled meetings

[List of scheduled ILO meetings for 2009.](#)

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