



NEWSLETTER

07/OCTOBER 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

G20 commits to putting quality jobs at the heart of economic recovery 1
Support for decent work at the highest level of the EU 1
ECOSOC backs the Global Jobs Pact 2
Belgian parliamentary resolution in favour of decent work and international labour standards 2
Tripartite workshop to promote the Private Employment Agencies Convention 2
New plea for social security 3
Migrant workers and the crisis..... 3
The European Parliament turns its attention to employment in developing countries 3
World Day for Decent Work..... 3
New website for ILO-Brussels 4
Scheduled meetings..... 4
Contact us..... 4

G20 commits to putting quality jobs at the heart of economic recovery



In their final statement, the leaders of the G20, who met in Pittsburgh on 24 and 25 September, welcomed the Global Jobs Pact approved by the ILO in June 2009 and emphasised the importance of "building an employment-oriented framework for future economic growth". The ILO took part in the G20 summit. In its communication to the G20, it highlighted that job promotion and social protection measures taken by the governments of the G20 had created or saved 7 to 11 million jobs in 2009. The ILO's communication is complemented by a detailed report. In its text of 17 September, which established the EU's joint position for the G20 summit, the Informal Meeting of the European Council (heads of state and government) explicitly welcomed the adoption of the Global Jobs Pact.

Support for decent work at the highest level of the EU

In his political guidelines for the next European Commission, Commission president Barroso made a commitment to continuing to advocate decent work in all parts of the world. He stressed that if globalisation puts pressure on Europe's competitiveness, the response should never be to lower standards but to make the case to Europe's partners for them to adopt similar standards, in the interest of their own wellbeing. In a letter to the ILO's Brussels office, Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament, also declared his support for promoting decent work for all, both within and outside of the EU.





NEWSLETTER

07/OCTOBER 2009

ECOSOC backs the Global Jobs Pact

On 24 July, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted a resolution on the ILO Global Jobs Pact. This resolution, which was supported by over 170 countries, calls on the United Nations' funds, programmes and specialised agencies to take the Pact into account in their policies and programmes. It also invites international financial institutions and other relevant international and regional organisations to integrate the policy contents of the Pact into their activities. ECOSOC also urges donor countries, multilateral partners and other development partners to consider providing extra funding for the Pact's implementation. The resolution requests that the Secretary-General report to ECOSOC at its session of 2010 on progress made in implementing it.

Belgian parliamentary resolution in favour of decent work and international labour standards

In July, the Belgian parliament adopted a resolution on applying social and environmental standards within the context of globalisation. This resolution calls on the federal government to make social standards in general and decent work in particular a key consideration in Belgium's foreign policy and to continue working on the issue within international institutions (EU, UN, WTO, IMF, etc.). It also urges the government to bear decent work in mind in its development cooperation policy and encourage partner countries to incorporate fundamental labour standards into their legislation. The resolution emphasises how important it is that Belgium demand, at international level, that international labour standards be respected and the ILO's Conventions be ratified.



Tripartite workshop to promote the Private Employment Agencies Convention

The ILO is organising a tripartite workshop aiming to promote the ratification of Convention 181, the Private Employment Agencies Convention, which was adopted in 1997. The workshop will take place in Geneva on 20 and 21 October and has the firm support of the social partners in the sector ([CIETT](#) and [UNI](#)).

As things stand, 11 Member States of the European Union have ratified the convention. However, according to the European Commission's report of 3 July 2008 on decent work, all EU Member States should ratify this modern convention, which is classed as an up-to-date instrument. The European Union adopted a new directive on the rights of temporary agency workers in 2008, and Member States could use the transposition of this directive into national law to ratify and apply Convention 181. Its scope of application complements that of the directive on temporary agency work in that it covers all forms of employment-related



NEWSLETTER

07/OCTOBER 2009

services provided by private companies, as well as cooperation between public and private agencies.

New plea for social security

Social protection is a fundamental right, yet barely 20% of the world's population has adequate social coverage and over half has no social protection at all. The ILO is in the process of intensifying its analyses and work in favour of social protection, which is one of the four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda. In this connection, the ILO has published a new study, [Building decent societies](#). This study examines historical developments in social protection in OECD countries and developing countries in the light of the current financial and economic crisis.

Migrant workers and the crisis



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Faced with reduced opportunities for migration and work, the world's 100 million migrant workers are experiencing worsening living and working conditions and increasing xenophobia. Although no massive return of migrant workers has been observed so far, the crisis is having repercussions on their earnings and the remittances they send home. A [new ILO study](#) takes stock of these issues. An [interview](#) with the Director of the International Migration Programme at the ILO is also available online.

The European Parliament turns its attention to employment in developing countries

The European Parliament Development Committee has invited the ILO to speak on poverty reduction and job creation in developing countries on 6 October. One key subject that the ILO has raised is the Global Jobs Pact and its implementation in developing countries. The ILO has also discussed decent work's potential to fight the crisis in Africa (see also the [outcomes](#) of the tripartite meeting of experts on the way to address the implications of the crisis on Africa's peoples, held in Addis Ababa) and the need for the social partners to be involved more effectively in strategies to fight poverty.

World Day for Decent Work

For the second year running, the trade union movement has organised the [World Day for Decent Work](#) on 7 October.



International
Labour
Organization

ILO Office
*for the European Union
and the Benelux countries*

NEWSLETTER

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New website for ILO-Brussels

The ILO Office for the European Union and the Benelux countries has developed a [new website](#). Please feel free to visit it and contact us if you have any suggestions for improvements.

Scheduled meetings

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

Contact us

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