



## SECOND ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Effect to be given to the  
recommendations of sectoral  
and technical meetings****Workshop to Promote Ratification of  
the Private Employment Agencies  
Convention, 1997 (No. 181)  
(Geneva, 20–21 October 2009)**

1. In November 2009, the Office submitted (in the form of points of consensus) the recommendations of the above Workshop for approval, together with a brief report<sup>1</sup> indicating that the full report would be submitted at the current session. The Governing Body approved the dissemination of the recommendations,<sup>2</sup> and requested the Director-General to bear in mind, when drawing up proposals for future work, the wishes expressed in those points of consensus.
2. The attached *Report of the discussion*<sup>3</sup> summarizes the discussions at the Workshop and includes the approved points of consensus. The Report focuses on areas of common ground, but also indicates that there were areas in which difficulties should be addressed in the private employment agency industry, and that there was a need to increase the number of ratifications of the Convention and to encourage compliance with its principles on a much wider basis throughout the world.
3. As regards the effect to be given to the points of consensus, it should be recalled that in March 2009 the Governing Body approved a package of activities for 2010–11,<sup>4</sup> including a Global Dialogue Forum on the Role of Private Employment Agencies in Promoting Decent Work and Improving the Functioning of Labour Markets in Private Services

<sup>1</sup> GB.306/STM/2/5.

<sup>2</sup> dec-GB.306/13.

<sup>3</sup> WPEAC/2009/10.

<sup>4</sup> GB.304/PV, para. 216; GB.304/STM/1, para. 25.

Sectors, originally planned to be held in late 2011.<sup>5</sup> At the same time, it approved that ten Worker and ten Employer participants be invited to participate in the Forum, which would be open to all interested governments.

4. To avoid scheduling conflicts, it is now proposed to hold this Forum earlier in 2011, on 11–12 April.
5. The purpose of the Forum would be to exchange views on private employment agencies and temporary agency work and to further promote Convention No. 181, present good practices and encourage further ratifications. As indicated during the 304th Session of the Governing Body, it would “focus more specifically on private services sectors (especially hotels, commerce, finance, media and telecommunications) as regards private employment agencies’ role in promoting decent work through the expansion of protection for temporary workers, while improving the functioning of labour markets in private services”.<sup>6</sup> On the basis of the October 2009 Workshop’s points of consensus, the work to prepare the Forum would seek to: (a) monitor and analyse trends in temporary agency employment in those sectors in selected countries; (b) collect data on best practices; (c) undertake research on the private employment agency industry, including on issues such as job creation, precarious work, occupational safety and health, and the profile of agency workers; and (d) examine the positions of workers’ and employers’ organizations on such issues. It would stress the importance and usefulness of the Global Jobs Pact as a policy framework for member States in limiting the risk of unemployment by strengthening the public employment service and addressing the need for private employment agencies so as to give adequate support to jobseekers.
6. *The Committee may wish to recommend that the Governing Body:*
  - (a) *authorize the Director-General to communicate the Report of the discussion of the Workshop to Promote Ratification of the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181) (Geneva, 20–21 October 2009) to governments, requesting them to communicate the text to the employers’ and workers’ organizations concerned; and to the international employers’ and workers’ organizations and other international organizations concerned; and*
  - (b) *approve the proposals in paragraphs 4–5 concerning the effect to be given to the October 2009 Workshop as regards the date and purpose of the 2011 Global Dialogue Forum on the Role of Private Employment Agencies in Promoting Decent Work and Improving the Functioning of Labour Markets in Private Services Sectors.*

Geneva, 8 February 2010.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 6.

<sup>5</sup> On 24–25 October 2011.

<sup>6</sup> GB.304/STM/1, para. 25.