

Invitation



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*Conference - Towards an inclusive and green economy:
the importance of green jobs*

23 April 2012



Towards an inclusive and green economy: the importance of green jobs

The Government of Flanders and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) have a long standing cooperation, that has developed into a full-fledged partnership over the years. Within the framework of this cooperation, the Government of Flanders, the ILO and Social and Economic Council of Flanders (SERV) organise a conference on how to make a just transition: **a transition that delivers greater social inclusion and quality employment opportunities for all.** This conference builds on the knowledge obtained at the Flemish stakeholder forum Rio+20 on 3 October 2011.

The lack of decent work opportunities and persistent working poverty and social exclusion are major challenges to achieve sustainable development. This is in large measure caused by the insufficient attention to the social pillar and the lack of coherence between policies across the three pillars of sustainable development. At Rio+20, governments should reaffirm the goal of decent work for all as central to sustainable development. They must create and reinforce the linkages between the three pillars and commit to develop mutually supportive economic, social and environmental policies.

At this conference, two panel debates will focus on global and national policies for green jobs promotion. An enabling role of government needs to be complemented by practical initiatives by the social partners and the broader civil society. Understanding the potential for new green jobs and the need to green existing enterprises and jobs is a prerequisite for policy dialogue. Active labour market policies should support the creation of green jobs and provide the workers who may have to change

their jobs in high carbon-intensive sectors as part of the transition to a green economy with new opportunities. This can be done by building effective employment services and strengthening training systems and upgrading schemes for new and changing skills, especially among youth. Also, governments should create the enabling environment for sustainable enterprise development, with special attention for small- and medium sized enterprises that provide the bulk of employment. Policies should include incentive-based measures for greening existing industries and the expansion of value chains and markets in new green sectors.

With this event, we hope to bring the Rio+20 conference closer to the people and to contribute to a society that is well aware of the challenges we are facing. It is our aim to stimulate an open dialogue between government, social partners and civil society in order to provide Flemish participants, involved in the preparation of the Rio+20 conference, with new perspectives, useful ideas and best practices.



Programme

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| 13h30 - 14h00 | Registration of participants |
| 14h00 - 14h05 | Welcome by Mr Koen Verlaeckt , Secretary General of the Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs: <i>outline of the programme</i> |
| 14h05 - 14h20 | Introduction speeches: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction by Kris Peeters, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders: <i>the partnership between the Government of Flanders and the ILO, and Flanders' perspective on greening the economy</i>• Introduction by Rudi Delarue, Director of the ILO office in Brussels: <i>key messages from the ILO on the Rio+20 conference and the cooperation with Flanders</i> |
| 14h20 - 14h40 | Keynote speakers: towards an inclusive and green economy: the importance of green jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peter Poschen, ILO Director, Job Creation and Enterprise Development Department, senior sustainable development specialist: <i>making green jobs a reality: a transition that delivers greater social inclusion and quality employment opportunities for all</i>• David Leysens, KAURI, CSR excellence center: <i>examples of how Flemish companies and organizations are affected by Rio+20</i> |
| 14h40 - 15h00 | Coffee break |

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| <p>15h00 - 16h30</p> | <p>Panel debate I – <i>The need for a green economy: how can developed and developing countries make a just transition?</i></p> <p>* Debate among 3 participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Vermorgen, Social and Economic Council of Flanders (SERV), trade union ACV • Lieze Cloots, policy coordinator at BBL, the Flemish Umbrella Organization for Environment • Kees van der Ree, ILO coordinator green jobs programme <p>* Questions from public</p> <p>Panel debate II – <i>Changing dynamics in the labour market: the search for new job profiles, green skills and matching competences</i></p> <p>* Debate among 4 participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laurent-Philippe Ham, Greenfish, green recruitment and consultancy company • Nico Demeester, Social and Economic Council of Flanders, employers organization VOKA • Santiago Loranca Garcia, European Commission, head of unit, European employment strategy • Martin Siecker, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) <p>* Questions from public</p> <p>Moderator: Dirk Barrez, author and TV journalist</p> |
| <p>16h30 - 16h45</p> | <p>Conclusions of the conference by Pieter Kerremans, General Director Social and Economic Council of Flanders: <i>what crucial messages should be taken into account by the negotiators in Rio+20?</i></p> |
| <p>16h45 - 18h00</p> | <p>Reception</p> |

Practical

Location: Flemish Parliament
(room 'De Schelp'), Leuvenseweg 86,
1000 Brussels (Nr 1 on the map)

How to reach the venue? All information
on www.vlaamsparlement.be
(only in Dutch)

R.S.V.P. before 6 April 2012 at
<http://iv.vlaanderen.be/Flanders-ILOconference>

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