

NEWSLETTER

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New European Commission CSR strategy strongly supports ILO instruments

On 25 October 2011, the European Commission (EC) adopted its new CSR strategy "[A renewed EU strategy 2011-14 for Corporate Social Responsibility](#)". In this document the EC not only highlights the importance of the implementation of core ILO standards but importantly invites all European-based multinational enterprises to make a commitment by 2014 to respect the [ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy](#). The ILO very much welcomes this important and very concrete support of the Commission for ILO instruments.

EU communication on future development policy supports decent work



The European Commission communication of 13 October 2011, "[An Agenda for Change](#)", presents the guiding principles for future EU external development policy. The ILO welcomes the fact that the Agenda recognizes the significance of promoting decent work covering job creation and the guarantee of rights at work, social protection and social dialogue. The Agenda underlines that the EU should support the decent work agenda and social protection schemes and floors. It highlights the need to promote a green economy that can generate growth, create jobs and help reduce poverty by valuing and investing in natural capital.

The guiding principles of the Agenda will be progressively reflected during the remainder of the current programming and in future programming of EU development cooperation.

The ILO hopes that the operational modalities will take into account the specific role of employers and workers organizations, of social dialogue and of tripartite consultations. The new EU orientations are also very relevant for the future development cooperation of EU Member states.

Luxembourg ratifies maritime conventions



On 19 September 2011, the Government of Luxembourg deposited with the International Labour Office (ILO) the instruments of ratification of the [Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 \(MLC, 2006\)](#) and the [Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention \(Revised\), 2003 \(No. 185\)](#). Luxembourg becomes the fifth EU member State, after Bulgaria, Denmark, Spain and Latvia, to ratify the MLC, 2006. It is the 22nd ILO member to ratify Convention No. 185.

The Permanent representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations in Geneva, Ambassador Jean Feyder, stated: "By depositing both instruments, Luxembourg will have ratified 100 ILO Conventions since becoming a member in 1920. We hope that without much further delay many other countries will ratify the MLC, 2006 enabling the Convention to produce its effect and promote global quality standards in worldwide shipping." Other EU member states are finalizing the ratification in line with the EU Council decision on the ratification of the MLC by EU Member states.

ILO response to European Commission's consultation on a new trade and development communication

In the summer of 2011, the European Commission (EC) launched a [public consultation on "A new Trade and Development Communication"](#). The International Labour Office (ILO) [replied](#) to this and contributed also to the UN Brussels reply. The ILO and the EU have an ongoing cooperation on trade and decent work. In its response, the ILO requests the EU to continue pursuing a comprehensive approach towards trade, economy, labour and development and to strengthen policy coherence. It is equally important to promote sustainable enterprises and the social dimension in the global supply chain. The promotion of decent work and international labour standards could also benefit from a timely interplay between the identification of shortcomings in the application of international labour standards, the dialogue with EU partner countries and the programming of EU external assistance.

Dutch Social Economic Council adopts landmark opinion on development cooperation

The [Dutch Social and Economic Council \(SER\)](#) adopted a [consensus opinion](#) on the role of the private sector in development cooperation. This opinion responds to a request by the Dutch Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Ben Knapen. The SER stated that a mature private sector is a critical factor for countries wishing to take advantage of globalization. Effective economic cooperation with developing countries should therefore focus on promoting local enterprises as the driver of sustainable growth and decent work, as well as an enabling environment. It underlines also the need for supporting decent work, for involving social partners in development assistance, for corporate social responsibility and for cooperation with the International Labour Organization.



This opinion is very timely as both the EU and its Member states are discussing the role of the private sector in development. This role cannot be reduced to the contribution of private actors to the funding of development assistance. As highlighted by the SER, it includes also supporting enabling conditions for enterprises, social dialogue and decent work in developing countries.

Conference “Towards a social, job-centered and competitive Europe”



On 3 and 4 October 2011, international experts, government officials, representatives from workers' and employers' organizations and members of the European Parliament gathered for the ILO High-Level Brainstorming Conference “[Towards a social, job-centered and competitive Europe: challenges for Europe and Central Asia – challenges for the ILO](#)”. Participants, including the ILO Director-General Juan Somavía, called for a new set of policy recommendations based on the ILO Global Jobs Pact, implemented through cooperation and policy coherence among European governments and EU institutions. The outcomes of the conference will feed into the ILO work and a new ILO European Regional Meeting planned for 2013.

ILO welcomes G20 shift back to growth, jobs and social protection



The [G20](#) ended its two-day session in Cannes on 4 November 2011. International Labour Organization Director-General Juan Somavía welcomed the focus placed by the G20 summit on growth, jobs and social protection. The [G20 Labour ministerial of September 2011](#) in Paris has fed into conclusions of the G20 Leaders summit in Cannes; G20 Leaders confirmed the Task Force on Employment that will concentrate on youth employment and recognized the importance of social protection floors.

In the run-up to the G20, an [ILO/OECD report](#) warned that the slow-down in the global economy could result in jobs shortfall among G20 countries. In a [joint letter](#) to their G20 partners ahead of the G20 summit, European Commission President Barroso and European Council President Van Rompuy stressed that the Union's overall objective would be "to help restore global confidence, support sustainable growth and job creation, and maintain financial stability."

During the G20 summit, the B20 (business organisations of the G20 countries) and the L20 (trade union organisations of the G20 countries) issued a [joint statement](#) on employment, social protection, fundamental principles and rights at work and multilateral coherence.

ECOSOC endorses ILO Global Jobs Pact



The International Labour Organization welcomes the adoption of a [Resolution on "Recovering from the world financial and economic crisis: a Global Jobs Pact"](#) by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in July 2011. The Resolution recognizes the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis on employment and requests the UN system and the international financial institutions to take into account the Global Jobs Pact in their respective policies and programs and to inform on progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

World Day for Decent Work



On 7 October 2011, different organizations celebrated the World Day for Decent Work. ILO-Brussels participated at three events. On 5 October 2011, [Solidar](#) and the [Foundation for European Progressive Studies \(FEPS\)](#) organized a roundtable for workers to support and promote the ratification and implementation of [the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 \(No. 189\)](#) in the European Parliament.

At the occasion of the [Dutch Trade Union Confederation \(FNV\) World Day of Decent Work](#) in Amsterdam, the Dutch Trade Union Confederation (FNV) awarded the president of the Georgian trade union federation Mr. Irakly Petriashvili with the FNV

Trade Union Award. The ILO supervisory system reported in recent years a number of application problems on freedom of association and collective bargaining in Georgia.

Equally on 7 October, the Belgian Coalition for Decent Work undertook activities for the promotion of the [ILO Convention No. 189](#). The Coalition was received by the Embassy of India and the Office of the Belgian Minister for Employment Joëlle Milquet. The Minister's head of cabinet stated that Convention 189 would be discussed as soon as possible, so that the Belgian Parliament can ratify it. The advisor to the Ambassador of India to Belgium, Mr. Jha, promised the Coalition to forward the request for ratification to the Indian government.

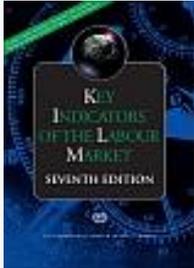
Book launch: "Trade and Employment - From Myths to Facts"



On 23rd October, the ILO and the European Commission (Directorate General Development & Cooperation) launched the publication "[Trade and Employment - From Myths to Facts](#)". DEVCO Human and Society Development Director Kristian Schmidt and ILO Executive Director J.M. Salazar-Xirinachs introduced the book as an instrument for all those who are interested in the debate on the employment effects of trade. The publication tries to address the disconnect between the trade and the employment linkages in public debates and the relative absence of factual assessments of the employment and distributional implications of trade.



New Key Indicators of the Labour Market 2011



The [7th edition of the Key Indicators of the Labour Market \(KILM\)](#), the ILO's research tool for labour market information, has been issued. The KILM is a collection of 18 key indicators of the labour market, ranging from employment and variables relating to employment, the lack of work, the conditions of work and the characteristics of jobseekers. Taken together, the indicators give a strong foundation to addressing key questions related to productive employment and decent work.

ILO World of Work report 2011 warns of new and deeper jobs recession

On the eve of the G20 summit, the International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the [World of Work Report 2011](#), one of its annual flagship reports. The report concludes that the global economy is on the verge of a new jobs recession that will delay economic recovery and may ignite more social unrest. "We have reached the moment of truth. We have a brief window of opportunity to avoid a major double-dip in employment," said Raymond Torres, Director of the ILO International Institute for Labour Studies that issued the report. The [World of Work 2011 Snapshot of the European Union](#) analyses the situation within the European Union.

Scheduled meetings

[List of scheduled ILO meetings](#)

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