

**NEWSLETTER**

N° 6/ SEPTEMBER 2011

**ILO Director-General addresses the European parliament** .....1

**EU Maritime Task Force supports speedy ratification of ILO Conventions**.....1

**Final conference EU-ILO project “Gender Equality in the World of Work”** .....2

**ILO report: “Freedom of Association and Development”** .....2

**“The invisible workers”, a movie on domestic workers** .....2

**Conference on trafficking for labour exploitation** .....3

**Social protection for the self-employed: ILO-Santiago and Ex-Change vzw working together** .....3

**Handbook “Migration for Development: a bottom-up approach”**.....3

**Online video on Globalization and Labour Markets** .....4

**Challenges in the Arab World: an ILO response** .....4

**XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work**.....4

**ILO posters and new World of Work magazine** .....4

**Scheduled meetings** .....4

**Contact us** .....5

**ILO Director-General addresses the European parliament**



The Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Juan Somavia, [addressed the European Parliament](#) during its special meeting on the social dimension of globalization on 14 September in Strasbourg. Mr Somavia underpinned the importance of putting productive investment in the real economy at the heart of policy making. Within the major employment and social challenges in the EU, Somavia said it was time to recover the trust of people and to address the rising inequalities. He underlined that crises should not be made a pretext for weakening basic labour rights and the application of ratified ILO Conventions, citing the example of Greece. Somavia said the upcoming G20 leaders meeting presented an opportunity for leaders to reconnect with the real economy. You can watch the recording of the debate on the [European Parliament website](#).

**EU Maritime Task Force supports speedy ratification of ILO Conventions**



The European Commission (EC) has created a Task Force on Maritime Employment and Competitiveness to develop ideas on ways to strengthen the attractiveness of the seafaring profession, while keeping a right balance between the employment conditions of EU seafarers and the competitiveness of the EU

shipping industry. The Task Force delivered its [report containing recommendations](#) on topics such as the regulatory framework, working and living conditions on board, legal and administrative treatment of seafarers etc. The report strongly supports the ILO Maritime Labour Conventions.

In the field of living and working conditions, the Task Force considers that the social partners at EU level, in close contact with the Commission, have a crucial role to play, while Member States have to make their contribution by ratifying, implementing and enforcing the ILO [Maritime Labour Convention 2006 \(MLC\)](#) as a matter of priority. The report also emphasizes the importance for seafarers of a shore leave, recognizing the immigration and security challenges. The Task Force believes that the ILO [Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention \(Revised\), 2003 \(No. 185\)](#) can be an instrument to improve the identification of seafarers and thus facilitate shore leaves. At EU Member state level much more efforts will be required to ratify Convention No 185. Currently, only France, Hungary and Spain ratified it and Lithuania signed a declaration of provisional application.

### **Final conference EU-ILO project “Gender Equality in the World of Work”**



On 29 June 2011, over 100 participants from the Ukrainian Government, employers' and workers' organizations, the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, the International Labour Office (ILO) as well as civil society came together in Kyiv to discuss the results of the EU-ILO project [“Gender Equality in the World of Work”](#).

The project has focused on developing and implementing gender-sensitive employment policies and

locally adapted tools to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the world of work in Ukraine. This project became an integral resource for expert information on equal opportunities and non-discrimination in the workplace in Ukraine. It has had a significant effect on public institutions, social partners, governmental authorities, women entrepreneurs and on public and private attitudes towards gender equality in the workplace. All project partners pledged that they will continue to work towards achieving gender equality in the world of work in Ukraine.

### **ILO report: “Freedom of Association and Development”**

The ILO recently published the report [“Freedom of Association and Development”](#), highlighting the crucial role of freedom of association in promoting and maintaining sustainable development. This report provides ideas for governments, trade unions and employers' organizations on how to work together to achieve real results for development. The report gathers case studies demonstrating the positive effect on economic growth and development of freedom of association and provides guidance and ideas to promote respect for freedom of association.

### **“The invisible workers”, a movie on domestic workers**



[IDAY](#), a network of European and African civil society organizations committed to improving basic education in Africa, made a video on domestic workers in East and Central Africa. The movie takes a close look at the

personal stories of some young domestic workers in Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and gives the floor to experts. The video pledges for a formalization and valorization of the work of domestic workers and for their alphabetization and professional training. It is an interesting document for everyone concerned by the matter of domestic work. You can watch an online [teaser of the video](#). More information: [info@iday.org](mailto:info@iday.org).

The adoption of the Domestic Work Convention at the 2011 International Labour Conference represents an important progress for domestic workers worldwide.

### Conference on trafficking for labour exploitation



Today, at least 12.3 million persons are in forced labour. Most victims are poverty-stricken people in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Yet over 350.000 people are also in forced labour in industrialized countries, trafficked for labour or sexual exploitation. In 2001, the ILO created a [Special Action Programme to combat Forced Labour](#). The European Commission (EC) supports the field-based anti-trafficking projects of this special programme.

The results of EU-ILO initiatives to fight trafficking for labour exploitation were recently presented at a conference organized by the EC (EuropeAid) and the ILO. Ms Beate Andrees (ILO Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour) presented the [results of ILO projects for preventing and prosecuting trafficking for labour exploitation](#). Mr Julien Frey (EC, DG Development & Cooperation - EuropeAid) explained how [trafficking of human beings is addressed](#)

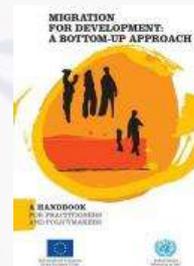
[in EU external cooperation](#).

### Social protection for the self-employed: ILO-Santiago and Ex-Change vzw working together



By 2012, the Chilean government intends to establish a new pension system for the self-employed. The Chilean government asked ILO-Santiago to provide useful foreign expertise on existing systems, such as in Belgium. This was provided by [Ex-Change](#), a Belgian (Flanders) posting platform for volunteer experts who can meet the demand for expertise from small and medium-sized entrepreneurs in the South. Its General Manager Roland Waeyaert has 20 years of experience in social security for self-employed in Belgium and also elsewhere through technical cooperation. He shared his expertise during a mission, working together with ILO-Santiago on a system which would be maximally accepted by all the Chilean self-employed.

### Handbook “Migration for Development: a bottom-up approach”



The [EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative \(JMIDI\)](#) recently launched the handbook “[Migration for Development: a bottom-up approach](#)”, aimed at practitioners and policymakers in the field of migration and development (M&D). The manual

represents an encompassing codification exercise to compare and draw lessons from over fifty JMDI projects carried out by small-scale actors. It allows to assess M&D practices in order to know what works, under what conditions, in which transnational spaces, and why.

### **Online video on Globalization and Labour Markets**

Policymakers at both the national and the international level are increasingly looking for new strategies to promote more and better employment outcomes in a globalizing world. At a workshop at the ILO in June 2011, leading academics gathered to discuss latest findings on the relationship between globalization and labour markets and their impact for policy design. A video was made during the event and is now [available on YouTube](#). The workshop was sponsored jointly by ILO, [World Bank](#), the [CESifo](#) economics research group and the [EFIGE](#) research project on European firms in a global economy.

### **Challenges in the Arab World: an ILO response**

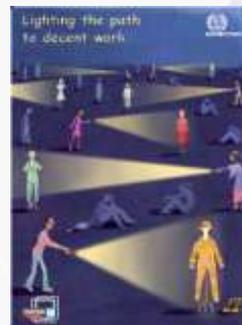
As a response to the popular uprisings in Arab countries, the ILO has issued a document entitled: "[Challenges in the Arab World: An ILO response](#)" assessing the decent work deficits in the region and proposing a strategy. This strategy has been presented to ILO's main partners at the occasion of a donor meeting organized in ILO's Headquarters on 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2011. The aim of the meeting was to bring together representatives from the MENA countries, the international community, donors who are interested in lending support to those countries, and ILO constituents.

### **XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work**



The [XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work](#), the world's largest gathering of health and safety experts, took place in Istanbul from 11 - 15 September 2011. This year's congress focused on strengthening global commitment to a culture of safety and health at work amid the challenges of global economic uncertainty.

### **ILO posters and new World of Work magazine**



The ILO recently produced a new set of attractive posters, illustrated by Gill Button and visualizing decent work, safety and health topics and messages. If you are interested in these posters, please contact the ILO Brussels Office. The new [ILO World of Work magazine](#) has been issued as well. To order the printed version of this magazine, please contact ILO-Brussels.

### **Scheduled meetings**

[List of scheduled ILO meetings](#)



International  
Labor  
Organization

**ILO Office**

*for the European Union  
and the Benelux countries*

## NEWSLETTER

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