

ILO-Brussels organised a Consultation on “Decent Work for youth – the EU dimension”	1
UN response to EC Consultation on social protection in development cooperation	1
Preparations for the June 2012 International Labour Conference on Social Protection Floors.....	2
The impact of the financial crisis on industrial relations in Greece	2
ILO - Flanders Conference "Towards an inclusive and green economy: the importance of green jobs"	3
ILO at European Parliament hearing on free trade agreement with Colombia and Peru	3
European Parliament reiterates request to involve ILO in the EC-ECB-IMF Troika	3
ILO Office at S&D conference on posting of workers.....	3
ILO Governing Body pays tribute to victims of bus crash	4
ILO study on work inequalities in Europe	4
ILO at the EUROMED Employment and Labour High Level Working Group.....	4
ITC – ILO courses in 2012	4
“Employment Protection Legislation tested by the economic crisis: a global review of the regulation of collective dismissals for economic reasons”	5
Scheduled meetings	5
Contact us	5

ILO-Brussels organised a Consultation on “Decent Work for youth – the EU dimension”



The [ILO Consultation](#), hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), brought together the European Youth Forum, the ETUC youth committee, the EU employers’ organisations Business Europe and UEAPME, the EESC, the European Commission, the Danish EU Council presidency, EU Member States and representatives of political groups at the European Parliament. It resulted in intensive and constructive discussions. Its outcomes will feed into the [ILO Global Youth Employment Forum](#) from 23-25 May in Geneva, into the June 2012 International Labour Conference and into the on-going EU debates. The ILO Office presented the challenges and issues for action, as covered by the [ILO Office Report on Youth Employment](#) submitted to the June 2012 ILC.

UN response to EC Consultation on social protection in development cooperation



The ILO Office contributed significantly to the consolidated [response by the UN team in Brussels](#) to the ["European Commission \(EC\) Public Consultation: Social Protection in EU Development Cooperation"](#). The UN response very much welcomed the EC initiatives aiming at promoting social protection in EU

development cooperation. The UN provided suggestions for effectively supporting national social protection systems and floors in the programming of EU external assistance, taking into account the recommendations of the October 2011 [report by the UN Social Protection Floor \(SPF\) advisory group](#) chaired by Michelle Bachelet. The SPF received strong backing by the G20 2011 Labour Ministerial and by the G20 2011 Summit.

Preparations for the June 2012 International Labour Conference on Social Protection Floors



The ILO Office complemented the UN response to the EC public consultation on social protection in development cooperation with an [ILO response](#), taking into account the ILO tripartite structure and the upcoming discussion at the June 2012 International Labour Conference (ILC) regarding a [Recommendation on Social Protection Floors](#). The ILO Office requested the EU development cooperation to take account of the outcome of the 2012 ILC in order to benefit from any possible Recommendation.

The ILO Office has just published the [report including a draft Recommendation](#) that will form the basis for the discussions at the ILC. The EU Social Protection Committee (SPC) has included the social protection floor in its [work programme 2012](#). The SPC discussed on 27 March 2012, based on an ILO presentation and together with the EU employment committee (EMCO), on the social protection floor initiative and the June 2012 ILC during the informal joint EMCO/SPC meeting under Danish Council presidency.

The impact of the financial crisis on industrial relations in Greece



In February 2012, a new ILO Working Paper, "[Social dialogue and collective bargaining in times of crisis: The case of Greece](#)", was issued. It is part of a series of national studies on collective bargaining and effective responses to the crisis. The paper describes the impact of the financial, economic and social crisis on industrial relations in Greece. A series of austerity measures put in place through new legislation resulted in enormous challenges faced by Greece's industrial relations.

In February 2012, just as the paper was going to print, new austerity measures were adopted, as part of the EC-ECB and IMF support package, which will have a profound impact on the country's industrial relations, such as the unprecedented reduction of the minimum wage in the private sector by 22 % compared to the threshold in the national collective agreement. Both the Greek employers' and workers' organisations of the private sector had jointly opposed this reduction.

ILO - Flanders Conference "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, "[Towards an inclusive and green economy: the importance of green jobs](#)", on how to make a just transition that delivers greater social inclusion and quality employment opportunities for all. The ILO-Flanders Conference will take place on 23 April 2012 at the Flemish Parliament in Brussels. You can [register online](#).

ILO at European Parliament hearing on free trade agreement with Colombia and Peru

On 29 February 2012, the ILO participated in the hearing by the European Parliament Committee on International Trade (EP/INTA) on the initialled free trade agreements between the EU and Colombia and Peru. Guido Horacio from the ILO International Labour Standards Department informed the EP on the findings of the ILO supervisory mechanism in Colombia and Peru and provided an overview of the ILO activities on labour standards in the two countries. The ILO Office called on the EU to improve the operational interplay between promoting international labour standards through trade policy and the programming of external assistance to developing countries, as included in the [January 2012 EC communication on trade, growth and development](#).

European Parliament reiterates request to involve ILO in the EC-ECB-IMF Troika



The European Parliament (EP) adopted on 15 February 2012 a [Resolution on employment and social aspects in the EU Annual Growth Survey 2012](#). The EP reiterates its position, adopted in its 2011 report on the financial, economic and social crisis, that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) should be involved in the EC-IMF-ECB financial assistance programmes to the EU Member States concerned. It also calls on the European Council to give the Member States concerned the necessary encouragement for investments in sustainable job creation, education and training, and poverty reduction so as to facilitate their contribution to achieving the EU headline targets in these areas.

ILO Office at S&D conference on posting of workers



On 7 March 2012, Karen Curtis, Deputy Director of the ILO International Labour Standards Department, intervened during the European Parliament S&D Conference on "Posted workers and fundamental social rights in the single market", in the presence of Commissioner Andor and members of the European Parliament. She informed the conference on the established positions of the ILO supervisory system on the right to take collective action and the accepted grounds for possible limitations. Recently the ILO

Committee on the Freedom of Association reiterated the position that economic grounds cannot constitute a reason for limiting the right to strike.

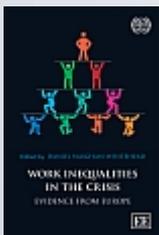
ILO Governing Body pays tribute to victims of bus crash



During the 313th session of the Governing Body of the ILO, which takes place from 15-30 March 2012, its members have paid tribute to the victims of the tragic bus accident in Switzerland, commemorating the deceased – among whom 22 children – with one minute of silence. Luc Cortebeek, Vice-Chairperson and representing the workers, has read a declaration. The representative of the employers expressed solidarity on behalf of his group and the representative of the Belgian Government thanked the Swiss authorities for their support.

During this 313th session of the Governing body, the process for the appointment of the next Director-General of the ILO has also been initiated. Other points on the agenda include: the situation in Myanmar, the preparations for Rio+20 and the ILO's role in staving off the renewed financial, economic and social crisis.

ILO study on work inequalities in Europe

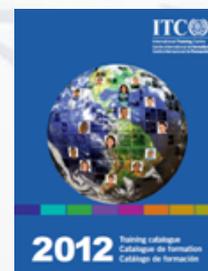


Workplace inequalities have increased significantly across Europe as a result of the global economic crisis, and will continue to do so as more and more countries introduce austerity measures and labour reforms, according to the new study "[Work inequalities in the Crisis: Evidence from Europe](#)" published by the International Labour Office (ILO) and co-funded by the European Commission. The book analyses how working conditions, wages and incomes, employment and gender equality, among other workplace issues, have been deteriorating across the continent since the start of the crisis. It includes data from 30 countries and 14 national studies by leading European specialists.

ILO at the EUROMED Employment and Labour High Level Working Group

The EUROMED Employment and Labour High Level Working Group took place on 14 February 2012 in Brussels. Dorothea Schmidt, Senior Expert on Employment Policy of the ILO Cairo Office provided a detailed [overview](#) of the employment and decent work challenges in the region and identified priorities for action.

ITC – ILO courses in 2012



The International Training centre of the ILO (ITC-ILO) in Turin organises a wide range of interesting courses in 2012. Some of the imminent ones are: the "[Académie de la sécurité sociale](#)" starting on 2 April,

online and in Turin, [“Identifying and investigating cases of forced labour and trafficking”](#), 16 - 20 April in Turin, [“Diversity inclusiveness and deep democracy”](#) workshop in Turin, 24-26 April.

Staple curricula on social dialogue are prepared and delivered jointly by ILO/DIALOGUE and the ITC-ILO, such as the updated courses on [“Joint Union / Management Negotiation Skills”](#) and [“Conciliation/Mediation of Labour Disputes”](#). The courses are offered in various languages, online and face-to-face and offer excellent opportunities to meet with high level expertise in your field of interest. Limited and partial funding options are available for a few candidates who meet the criteria.

“Employment Protection Legislation tested by the economic crisis: a global review of the regulation of collective dismissals for economic reasons”

This [ILO/DIALOGUE Brief no. 3, 2011](#) identifies the principal elements of the regulation of collective dismissals for economic reasons in over 125 countries, together with reforms introduced between 2008 and 2011. The several aspects of Employment Protection Legislation are considered: quantitative definition of redundancies, procedures of consultation of workers’ representatives and notification to public authorities, employer’s obligation to consider other options before dismissals, criteria for selection of employees to be dismissed and priority of rehiring.

Scheduled meetings

[List of scheduled ILO meetings](#)

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