

English quotes from the panellists on: “The Role of Productive Employment and Social Protection in Realizing the Millennium Development Goals”

What were the social effects of the austerity measures imposed by the Government?

The austerity programme announced early March by the Government will not have a negative impact on employment and the labour market in the long-term perspective. The extraordinary measures used to counteract the effects of the crisis did not reduce the levels of social protection so far.

Aimed at reaching the pre-crisis levels of growth, current efforts are heading toward enhancing social protection while tackling public deficit and debt. But the social consequences of these measures will depend on the sustainability of the European economic growth, not only the Portuguese one.

The Global Jobs Pact: how is it relevant to Portugal in the European context?

The recommendations of the Global Jobs Pact were taken on board by the Government. A national pact drawn on the current policies advocated by the ILO could be one of the possible solutions in finding a steady growth pace, not just in the immediate term, but also in preparing the country to recover after the crisis.

One of the lessons learnt in the crisis is that the development model implemented so far was unsustainable. The Jobs Pact promoted now in Portugal, facilitates the tripartite dialogue and allows employers and workers to seek a new model of development, based on equity, justice and the promotion of a better quality of work and life. A greener economy, granting high level of competence to workers and citizens and adjusted social protection models are essential within the context of the new challenges the European society is facing.