

FINAL
**Joint conclusions of the 6th High-Level Meeting between the European
Commission and the International Labour Office**
Brussels, 21 November 2007

The yearly High Level Meeting was the sixth one since the signature of the exchange of letters between the ILO and the European Commission on 14 May 2001.

From the European Commission's (EC) side, the following services were represented: DG EMPL, DEV, AIDCO, RELEX, TRADE, TREN, EAC, ENV, ECFIN, and FISH.

From the ILO side all the sectors and the Turin Centre were represented by the Executive Directors. Department Directors of the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, PARDEV, DCOMM, INTEGRATION and the Institute also participated. Participants are listed in Annex 1

The discussions were based on a joint agenda (Annex 2).

The main goals of the meeting were to identify possibilities for synergies on the concrete points of the agenda, to take stock of ongoing cooperation, to tackle challenges or difficulties of our partnership and to obtain joint conclusions on which to base our future collaboration.

I. Introduction, overall convergence of objectives and recent and forthcoming key initiatives

1. Introduction and overall convergence of objectives

The 2007 HLM reaffirmed the overall convergence between the strategic objectives and main policy objectives of ILO and EC as identified at the October 2006 HLM. This convergence is increasing in the light of joint and parallel efforts to strengthening the social dimension of globalisation and promoting decent work for all in the world.

Both ILO and EC/EU are building further on the recommendations of the 2004 World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation, the 2005 September UN Summit Outcome and the 2006 July ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration on employment and decent work with a view to contribute to their effective implementation.

The meeting took place after the ILO Forum on Decent Work for a Fair Globalisation in Lisbon 31 October – 2 November 2007.

The Forum addressed the issue of policy coherence in the international system. This was one of the most substantive and wide-ranging discussions on fair and inclusive globalization and decent work among representatives of governments, labour and employers as well as leaders from parliaments, academia and civil society since the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization which launched an international dialogue on the need for a fair and equitable globalization. The ILO indicated that the Portuguese EU Presidency has raised the idea on how the Forum could be institutionalised in one way or another.

Key EU developments

A significant recent EU development since the 2006 HLM is the endorsement of the orientations laid by the European Commission communication of May 2006 on decent work by the EU Council of Ministers, by the European Parliament and by the Economic and Social Committee in 2007. The new Lisbon strategy cycle with an increasing importance of the social dimension and the development of its external dimension in the context of globalisation also provides a new policy area for ILO-EU cooperation. The EU is developing an integrated approach to flexicurity and notes with great interest that ILO has also taken initiatives on this and related issues.

The EU is also taking action to ensure a further progressive uptake of employment, social protection, social inclusion and decent work in EU development policy and in the programming of external aid (thematic and in countries and regions taking into account EC partners' needs and priorities). These issues, as well as sustainable development, are also of growing importance in EU trade policies and in policy dialogue with third countries and regions (ASEM, EU Latin America/Caribbean and the December 2007 EU-African Union Summit).

EU will present in 2008 a follow-up to the decent work communication. A first step is the organisation by the EC of a decent work conference on 24 and 25 January 2008. This initiative aims also to contribute to the EU preparation for the February 2008 session of the UN Commission for Social development that will address employment and decent work.

Key ILO developments

The ILO is making progress with the establishment and implementation of Decent Work Country Programmes. These are agreed at national level and therefore clearly reflect country ownership and full tripartite involvement (employers, workers, government). The DWCP have also to be situated in the context of wider poverty reduction strategies and development frameworks such as the UN development assistance frameworks (UNDAF). The DWCP are therefore important in the context of ILO involvement in UN reform.

The ILO is also promoting policy coherence at global level through the policy coherence initiatives (ILO, IFIs, Regional Banks, WTO, OECD and others) and through the ILO Forum on Decent Work for a Fair Globalisation.

The ILO Governing Body decided to place on the agenda for adoption during the 97th Session (2008) of the International Labour Conference an **authoritative document**, possibly in the form of a Declaration, on "Strengthening the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization".

EC/EU-ILO joint initiatives and cooperation and concrete examples of win-win situations

A tangible example of a win-win situation is the protocol of agreement signed on 09 November 2007 by EU social partners in maritime transport incorporating large parts of the 2006 ILO consolidated maritime labour convention. Equally important is that EU social partners have requested implementation of parts of the agreement through a Decision of the EU Council. This

new important result also illustrates the key role of social partners and of social dialogue in promoting both economic competitiveness and social justice. It also contributes to maritime safety¹.

The expertise, training and information material on decent work and related issues provided by ILO and ILO Turin training centre to EC Delegations in EC partner countries, to other EC staff and to other EU meetings and initiatives, as well as the EC awareness raising regional initiatives to delegation staff on employment, social protection and decent work,² are concrete examples of win-win situations.

The uptake of social responsibility, including decent work, CSR and social protection, in the G8 2007 outcome of both the G8 Summit and the G8 2007 Employment Ministerial, is also clear illustration of the added value of cooperation and parallel efforts.

The overview of the outcomes since the 2006 HLM, included in the table with "A points", illustrates the ongoing intensive cooperation on a large number of issues.

2. Recent and forthcoming key initiatives as introduced by the ILO.

The three topics are of horizontal nature and have potential for future EC-ILO cooperation through different ways taking into account the respective agendas and priorities.

2.1. Toolkit for mainstreaming employment and decent work

The UN Chief Executives Board's (CEB) agreed in April 2007 on a Toolkit for Mainstreaming Employment and Decent Work. The overall objective of the Toolkit is to mobilize synergies and to enhance the employment and decent work impact of CEB-member organizations as a contribution towards a system-wide coherent approach to the implementation of the World Summit Outcome. As part of the effort to realize the goal of "One UN", the Toolkit with its website is also a means to share knowledge more efficiently and systematically, to identify policy synergies, to avoid overlaps, to promote policy dialogue, and thus to focus interagency cooperation around a shared international development agenda. By fostering policy coherence in the advice provided to our respective constituents, it improves overall efficacy.

The EC welcomes the toolkit and notes with interest that it is in line with EU efforts to strengthen the social pillar of impact assessments, that it addresses the different issues related to decent work as well as the informal economy. ILO is open towards possible suggestions on adapting the toolkit to match very diverse needs in different regions and countries. In this context EC notes with interest that specific versions for parliaments and social partners are in the make. The toolkit will be presented at the upcoming EU conference on decent work on 24-25/1/2008 and it could

¹ See also point II D on international labour standards and decent work in maritime sectors.

² For instance the EC workshop in December 2007 on employment in Euromed countries, the October 2007 meeting organised by EC with EU Member states on employment, social protection and vocational training in relation to development policy. The EC awareness raising regional seminars (HQs and delegations) with the participation of ILO (Asia 2006, LA 2008, ACP and ENP foreseen in 2008) allow the mainstreaming of DW strands into the EC external aid and better understanding of EC operational modalities.

also be used in other upcoming seminars, meetings and events involving EC staff in delegations and headquarters.

2.2 The global social floor

This ILO initiative has to be seen in the context of the global campaign on extending social protection coverage as part of efforts to eradicate poverty. The Director General's report to the International Labour Conference in 2008 will most likely address the issue of developing a global social floor. With 80 per cent of the world's workers having little or no social security, such a floor is more than a safety net. It is a firm foundation for a ladder of opportunity to help women and men climb up a solid social floor - a floor that integrates social investments with market opportunities to expand social mobility based on increasingly better jobs.

The EC welcomes this initiative that is part of decent work and the social dimension of globalisation. Social protection will be part of the 2008 follow-up package to the 2006 decent work communication. EC underlines that efforts to extend social protection coverage should include the informal economy. EC and ILO will explore cooperation on the preparation of possible future ILO initiatives on the social floor as well as on other initiatives related to social protection coverage.

2.3. Initial discussion on green jobs, climate change and the world of work

Climate change itself, the adaptation to it and efforts to mitigate further change will lead to major transformations of production and consumption patterns. This will cause profound shifts and transitions in labour markets and in the way people earn a living. Employment impacts will be significant especially in developing countries. At the same time it will include opportunities for green jobs.

Next steps for ILO are: (i) research and awareness raising (taking into account the fact that most research available today is developed in EU and EU MS), (ii) need for dialogue including at global and sector level, (iii) development of a policy module to use DWCPs, (iv) uptake of world of work in UN system wide approach on climate change and (v) uptake of the issue in an ILO umbrella programme taking into account limited ILO resources.

The EC and ILO note the convergence of analysis and approaches between the two institutions. Relations between environment, employment and social policy are not very well known yet and should be strengthened. EC invites ILO to contribute to the June 2007 Green paper on climate and EU strategy. ILO will be invited to attend/participate in the EC 2008 forum on climate change and managing change and the mid 2008 conference on social inclusion and environment. EC and ILO will explore possible cooperation on strengthening the knowledge base both inside and outside EU and on ways to integrate these issues in DWCPs and broader development frameworks taking into account the situations and needs in different developing countries.

II. Cooperation on specific policy areas:

A. Employment, social affairs and equal opportunities

A.1. Cooperation in the EU

Flexicurity

The EC adopted in June 2007 a communication on flexicurity. It presents a comprehensive approach combining flexibility with security with four components: flexible and reliable contractual arrangements, effective labour market policies, comprehensive lifelong learning strategies and modern social protection systems. Flexicurity is discussed in the Council with the objective to adopt common EU principles to be agreed by December 07. An important element, in particular in the context of ILO-EC cooperation, is the EU social partners' joint contribution at the occasion of the EU tripartite social summit in October 2007. EU will increase its efforts on life long learning and skills development³.

The ILO has a strong collaboration with the European Commission as well as OECD on flexicurity. It was also part of the report of the ILO Director General to the 2006 ILC on new patterns of work and of the 2005 ILO European and Central Asia regional meeting. The debate on flexicurity is of a particular importance to acceding and candidate countries.

The EC and ILO could further cooperate on flexicurity pathways as part of labour market reform and the integrated approach to decent work in new EU member countries and Western Balkan countries. Croatia has asked for EC and ILO support to organise an international conference on flexicurity for social partners in the Western Balkan countries. The ILO and EC could cooperate on the exchange of good practice and experience. Likewise, there is scope for EC/ILO cooperation regarding vocational training and lifelong learning policies. Cooperation on flexicurity and related issues can also be relevant for European neighbourhood policy (such as in Ukraine) and in other countries in the context of decent work and the establishment of employment guidelines for middle income and low income countries.

Ratification of conventions by EU Member states

All 27 EU Member countries have ratified the 8 fundamental labour conventions. Overall, EU countries have a high rate of ratification of ILO standards with an average of 78 conventions per country, even if this rate is uneven between the Member States. Recent ratifications were mainly

³ EU is taking initiatives on life long learning such as on career guidance, promoting high quality teaching, evidence based education policy, addressing illiteracy, specific attention to low skilled workers and migrant workers and recognition of competences such as through the European qualification framework.

related to the maritime conventions⁴. However, ratification levels of other conventions that are classified by ILO as up to date, such as on health and safety at work, could be improved.

The EC and ILO agree that there is a good case for cooperation with a view to promoting ratification. The European Commission 2008 legislative and work programme includes a recommendation on the ratification of conventions that are classified by ILO as up to date. This initiative is part of the 2008 follow-up to the 2006 decent work communication.

Labour migration

Migration is part of globalisation and it is multidimensional. The EU has developed in recent years a number of initiatives (legislative, internal and external programmes; it is part of dialogue and cooperation with third countries and regions). Recently the EC has made a proposal of a “blue card”. A Jumbo EU Council (employment and social affairs ministers and justice and home affairs ministers) will discuss labour migration in December 2008. Migration, mobility and employment are also part of the EU/Africa partnership and action plan. A green paper is expected in 2008 on the issue of education and migration.

The ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration (the non-binding principles and guidelines for a rights-based approach to labour migration) that was adopted by the ILO Tripartite Meeting of Experts (Geneva, 31 October-2 November 2005) offers a promising area for further cooperation. ILO cooperation has been requested for the 2008 World Migration Forum in the Philippines.

Further work needs to be done and cooperation could be explored in the field of combating discrimination in employment, formulation of policy at country level, collection of data, productive use of remittances, etc.

A.2. Knowledge basis (internal and external EU)

The International Institute for Labour Studies of the ILO will strengthen its work in the context of strengthening the social dimension of globalization and decent work. Three initiatives could offer interesting cooperation avenues with the EC as there is a need to strengthen the knowledge base:

- a) A new periodic publication on key challenges to the world of work in the era of globalization. Themes for 2008 are: social impact of financial liberalization and role of investment funds (integrated approach); globalization and inequalities; evolution of tripartism and socio-economic effects. Themes for 2009: labour law reform and how to take into account the informal economy; the role of social protection and the social floor; financing of the DW agenda.

⁴ The Council decision authorizing the ratification of the MLC by the Member states was adopted on 7/7/2007. This decision mentions that the MLC has to be ratified preferably before 31.12.2010 and also foresees that the Council will review the progress of the ratification before January 2010.

The EC/ ILO cooperation could include participation in an experts' group which will be set up to examine draft reports.

b) New project on employment and migration in selected Mediterranean countries (notably Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey). This project will: examine i) the links between job creation, employment informality and migration; ii) the extent to which labour, social and tax reforms can help create jobs, reduce employment informality and appease emigration pressures; and iii) how development aid can support change in the selected countries.

The EC/ILO cooperation could take the form of dialogue on key parameters of the project. EC will also explore possible financial support.

c) Follow-up to the ILO-WTO study on trade and employment. The follow-up will focus on the links between freer trade and investment, and informal economy in developing countries. The purpose is to examine how these countries can make the most from their international integration. EC and ILO cooperation could consist in EC involvement in preparatory work for the project (commenting on the drafts and other support).

In addition a strategic research agenda is presently being developed by ILO in the context of the Global Employment Agenda.

A. 3. Cooperation on external relations and globalisation

- Enlargement

Cooperation between the EC and the ILO will also be important with a view to progressively expanding regional cooperation in the Balkans to social policies, while encouraging the countries' ownership under the new regional cooperation scheme⁵. On the occasion of the latest Ministerial Meeting organized in October 2007 in Budva (Montenegro) both Commissioner Spidla and ILO highlighted a strong employment and social policy dimension in the EU accession and development agenda of the countries. ILO will support the countries in adopting an integrated approach to employment and social policy and in implementing CREP policy recommendations while taking into account the specific institutional context of EU enlargement. EC, EU Troika and ILO will cooperate on youth employment in the region in the context of a side event at the June 2008 ILC. ILO Sub-Regional office in Budapest and EC had a very fruitful first annual meeting in October 2007 and meetings will continue for expansion of practical exchanges and increasing synergies. Cooperation will also take place through EC Delegations. EC and ILO will also continue to cooperate in Turkey.

⁵ EC/ILO cooperation has to be seen both in the context of the Regional Cooperation Council, that has replaced the Stability Pact in South Eastern Europe, and at bilateral level. Regional cooperation on employment policy has been strengthened and this contributes to the enhance capacity of national labour market institutions and of social partners at regional and national level as well as to improve governance of the regional and national labour markets.

- European neighbourhood (ENP)

Cooperation between the EC and ILO has also been launched with a view to enhancing the synergies between the implementation of ILO Decent Work Country Programmes and European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) action plans in the European neighbour countries. The ILO will align its DWCPs taking into account EC's action plans.

On the one hand, particular focus should be put on Ukraine (covered also by above contacts with Budapest SRO) and, on the other hand, the Mediterranean countries.

As concerns the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the EU has started to develop a genuine employment and social dimension. The ILO has contributed to a discussion paper for the Euro-Med Employment Workshop in December, and it would be very welcome if this cooperation could be further strengthened with a view to the first Euro-Med Ministerial Conference on Employment in 2008.

Cooperation with the EC will be done through regular exchange of information and relevant technical materials with EC HQ and EC Delegations, joint organizations of conferences, alignment of newly concluded DWCPs with EC action plans, exploration of possible cooperation on EC programmes related to ENP and inputs into progress reports.

ILO/EESC cooperation is under preparation on Decent Work in the EuroMed and Black Sea.

- Policy dialogue with emerging economies and at regional level and wider international issues

The EU has established dialogue and operational cooperation with Latin America on social cohesion. ILO and ILO Turin training centre is very much involved in a number of initiatives through Eurosocial.

EU dialogue and cooperation with Asia in the framework of ASEM is progressing (next ASEM labour in 2008). Employment, decent work and migration are also part of the joint EU-Africa strategy and action plan. The recognition of decent work as a global and regional goal contributes to facilitate this dialogue and cooperation⁶. This is also very relevant for EC-ILO cooperation.

The same goes for the EU support for human rights and non state actors as well as for the UN.

The ILO is also ready to support the work of the independent Reflection Group that could be established by the upcoming EU December 2007 Summit in order to help the EU anticipate and meet challenges more effectively in the longer term including on issues related to globalisation.

The EC and the ILO will also further explore work on the elaboration of employment guidelines for low middle income countries reform, including the UN strategic programming at country level.

⁶ ILO regional meetings outcome in Asia (2007), Africa (2007) and Latin America (2006) are also very relevant as they confirm strong interest in decent work.

B. Session on Development policy and external assistance

B.1. Review of EC/ILO Strategic partnership in the field of development.

This partnership was signed in 2004 in the framework of the 2001 Exchange of Letters. The partnership was signed before the December 2005 European consensus on development, the UN 2005 Summit and the establishment of decent work country programmes (DWCP). The 2004 text identified a number of themes: core labour standards, with a special focus on child labour and education, employment, social dialogue, CSR, migration and gender mainstreaming. Point C.4 stipulates that the partnership will be an evolving framework and indicated that social protection could be one of the issues that could be taken up at a later stage. Point F stipulates that the partnership will be reviewed every 3 years.

In this context EC and ILO agree to reinforce the partnership, through these joint conclusions, by including also social protection as a separate theme due to the increased attention to social protection by both organisations and in order to ensure that the four pillars of decent work are covered by this partnership: rights at work, employment, social dialogue and social protection. A special focus will be put to the informal economy

ILO and EC also agree to strengthen the mutual understanding by looking into the possibility of exchanging staff between the two institutions as well as through exchanging information and knowledge.

In the future, priority should be given to strengthen the Strategic Partnership at country and regional level (via EC Delegations and ILO field offices) in line with recent regional seminars organised jointly between the ILO and the EC. However the thematic programmes 2007-2013 are also relevant for future cooperation.

The strategic partnership, agreed in 2004 in the context of 2001 Exchange of Letters, has provided a good framework which has fostered excellent collaboration. However, there is still room to improve and reinforce it, notably regarding the shortening of the implementation time for approved projects and programmes. The ILO recalled the perfect compatibility of DWCP towards UNDAF and that they encourage donors to pay special attention to achieve adequate and equitable repartition of funds towards the four pillars, to ensure that social protection and social dialogue are not left out.

B. 2. Key recent and upcoming EC initiatives on employment, social protection and decent work issues in relation to development and external assistance; information and communication strategy

The programming cycle of the EC is finalized and the strategic choices have been made. However, the implementation of the European consensus on development, including the scaling up of the potential for alliances with EU Member States platforms, and the uptake of decent work issues through other priority areas such as infrastructure, provide an important potential for

cooperation. The bulk of EC funding goes through country and regional programming, with an EC preference for budget support whenever feasible.

The thematic programmes such as “Investing in people”, “Migration”, “Non-State Actors (including social dialogue)” and “Human rights and democracy (including CLS)” are also relevant for EC/ILO cooperation. EC and ILO are finalising consultations on two important projects under investing in people 2007: indicators for measuring decent work in developing countries and assessing and addressing the impact of trade on employment and decent work. Internal EC preparations will start for the 2008 work programme of investing in people and decent work is one of the strands as agreed by EC, EP and Council for the period 2007-2010.

The two parties further clarified that joint financing of projects means joint management in close consultation in order to reach common strategic objectives.

Of particular importance are the regional seminars organised by EC for EC Delegations, with the participation and collaboration of ILO⁷. They allow the mainstreaming of DW strands into the EC external aid and better mutual EC/ILO understanding of respective structures, logic and operational modalities.

The information and communication strategy was addressed during this session. EC and ILO agreed that bringing communication and visibility of their cooperation in the forefront was the number one challenge. The ILO and EC agreed to integrate communication in all technical cooperation projects and to establish joint press releases and work on joint support material.

C. Trade, employment and decent work – recent and forthcoming initiatives

The EC highlights that adopting and implementing high labour standards on the one hand and external trade on the other hand are not contradictory.

The EC and ILO agree that there is also a need to better understand the relationship between employment and social policy and trade policies.

Trade policies have a significant impact on the level and structure of employment, on wages and wage differentials, but also on labour market institutions and policies. At the same time, labour and social policies influence the outcomes of trade policies in terms of growth of output and employment and the distribution of income.

The EC very much welcomes WTO-ILO cooperation on studies and analysis of the relationship between trade and employment/social policy/decent work. The EC and ILO should continue to work closely to build on previous work and cooperation

⁷ Such as the seminar in December for Asia and October 07 for Latin and Central America. The next seminars will cover Africa in 2008 and ENP in 2009. Another example is the October 2007 meeting, organised by EC, with EU Member states on employment, social protection and vocational training in relation to development policy. ILO expertise contributed to this meeting.

Aid for trade is also an important issue for addressing social adjustment related to trade. Social issues are part of the European Commission 2007 Communication on Aid for Trade. The EC-ILO cooperation could be explored.

The ILO and the EC are in an advanced stage of discussions (i.e. 'Investing in people programme') concerning a proposal to build capacity at the country level on the effects of trade on employment in order to support the design of effective and coherent policies that enable countries mitigate any negative effects and expand employment. Several specific objectives are aimed that build on each other:

- (a) consolidate the knowledge base on the effects of trade on employment and the policy options available to address the adjustment challenges and promote decent work;
- (b) strengthen the capacity of policy-makers, constituents, researchers and other institutions in pilot countries to assess the effects of changes in trade policy on employment;
- (c) improve the capacity of policy-makers and the social partners in pilot countries to design effective and coherent policies that respond to the adjustment challenges and promote decent work

Further joint work could be envisaged on DW Indicators especially on the need to obtain better data.

The relationship between trade and employment/social policy and decent work is also important for EC's SIAs related to trade agreements.

The EC indicates that the ongoing and upcoming FTAs with South Korea, India, ASEAN, Central America, Andean Community and with Ukraine will also include the sustainable development dimension. This will not only cover the ratification and effective application of CLS but also the commitment to decent work and a cooperation mechanism including the involvement of employers' and workers' organisations and other parts of civil society. It is key to highlight that approach is not based on sanctions but cooperation. The EC will come back on the FTAs at the 2008 HLM as discussions are still at a very early stage.

ILO highlights that the level of effective implementation of some fundamental ILO Conventions especially C87 on Freedom of Association is low. The EC and ILO appreciates the close cooperation on the GSP and GSP+ while taking into account the specific role and mandate of ILO.

D. International labour standards and decent work in maritime sectors

A tangible example is the protocol of agreement signed on 9 November 2007 by EU social partners in maritime transport incorporating large parts of the 2006 ILO consolidated maritime labour convention that was adopted with strong EU/EC support. Equally important is that EU social partners have requested implementation of parts of the agreement through a Decision of the EU Council based on art. 138-39 of the EC Treaty.

Once screened and checked by the services of the Commission, this European social agreement will be officially signed. A celebration with Vice-President Barrot and Commissioner Spidla and the social partners is envisaged around 23 February 2008. This corresponds with the second anniversary of the MLC.

In this context, there is a need for enforcement instruments to give full effect to the European social agreement. The preparation of an enforcement instrument will take around 18 months given the ambition of the European social agreement and the complex matters to cover, such as flag state, port state and labour supplying states' responsibilities. In this framework, it is essential to maintain a good cooperation with ILO to get guidance for implementation.

This new important result also illustrates the key role of social partners.

The EU Council decision authorising the ratification of the MLC by EU Member states mentions that the MLC has to be ratified preferably before 31.12.2010. Liberia and the Marshall Islands have ratified the convention, which represents 12% of world growth shipping tonnage. The ILO Turin Centre developed recently a training programme on Maritime conventions together with maritime school of Genova.

The EC and the ILO agree on the importance of this Convention for the global and EU maritime industry. Similarly the EU will encourage ratification of the Convention on Fishing sector.

E. CSR

The ILO recently celebrated the 30th year anniversary of the MNE Declaration. EC will organise on 7 December 2007 a large and high level conference on the international dimension of CSR. ILO CSR department will participate as speaker.

The ILO would be willing to examine the possibilities for further collaboration on this item such as:

- strengthen the principles of CSR and give more visibility and more clarity to the different instruments existing in the field of CSR;
- the creation of joint training workshop for providing advise to companies,

The ILO and EC could also work on two possible areas by: a) forging partnership with multilateral and bilateral institutions in order to ensure sustainable procurement and lending practices that demonstrate an understanding and application of the principles contained in ILS and the MNE Declaration (ILO's instrument on social responsibility); and b) addressing the increasing proliferation of different private standards of CSR.

IV. Adoption of A points

The 2007 High-Level Meeting (HLM) used as in 2006 the technique of dividing its agenda into "A points" and "B points". "A Points" were sorted out before the High Level Meeting and listed

in a table based on the 2005 and 2006 HLM joint conclusions, its outcome and related ongoing work. In the future the table should split outcomes from suggested cooperation points.

The meeting took note and approved the A points (Annex 3 Table with A points).

It was decided that the ILO and the EU would share with each other a calendar of major events.

V. Venue and date of the next High-level Meeting

The seventh High-Level Meeting is scheduled to take place early October 2008 in Geneva.

The agenda of the next HLM will be agreed upon closer to the date. Suggested items could include gender equality taking into account, amongst other things, that this item will be on the agenda of the 2009 ILC, governance issue in particular social dialogue, DWCP, employment intensive investment, informal economy and work at regional level.