

EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
UNION OF INDUSTRIAL AND EMPLOYERS' CONFEDERATIONS OF EUROPE
EUROPEAN CENTRE OF ENTERPRISES WITH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND
ENTERPRISES OF GENERAL ECONOMIC INTEREST

**Introductory statement to the compendium of social partners' initiative relating to the
employment guidelines of the EU employment strategy**

The Lisbon summit created a new dynamic by setting itself the strategic objective of making the European Union a competitive economic area based on innovation, knowledge and social cohesion, capable of tackling the necessary changes "in a manner consistent with its values and concepts of society and also with a view to the forthcoming enlargement".

ETUC, CEEP and UNICE/UEAPME endorse the Lisbon European summit's objective of strengthening co-ordination and synergies between the Luxembourg, Cardiff and Cologne processes in order to improve growth and achieve full employment through good co-ordination of economic policies, better functioning of the labour market and implementation of the necessary structural reforms.

These efforts to co-ordinate and achieve synergies should also involve better involvement at national as well as at European level of the social partners in the elaboration, evaluation and, where appropriate, implementation of guidelines.

UNICE/UEAPME, CEEP and ETUC have gathered initiatives of social partners, evaluated their relevance in relation to the four pillars of the employment guidelines and presented them in a compendium. On the basis of the work carried out, national social partners will organise round table discussions. At the European level, CEEP, UNICE/UEAPME and ETUC will examine ways of continuing the gathering of national social partners' initiatives.

ETUC, UNICE/UEAPME and CEEP ask that an annual meeting with social partners is organised before each European Council in the Spring in order to assess progress in the implementation of the strategy for economic growth and full employment defined in Lisbon and to bring their contribution to it.

In the context of their contribution to this strategy, UNICE/UEAPME, CEEP and ETUC are also engaged in negotiations on temporary agency work. They have put in place a working group in order to identify ways of promoting access to life-long learning and developing the skills of all men and women and started to reflect on telework with a view to delineating the concept of telework more clearly, cataloguing the questions that need to be examined and evaluating their cross-border dimension. European social partners have also adopted a joint contribution on the missions, field of activity and operation for a European observatory of change.

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