



Work Programme of the European Social Partners 2009 - 2010

INTRODUCTION

BUSINESSEUROPE, UEAPME, CEEP, ETUC (and the liaison committee EUROCADRES/CEC) reinforce their commitment to jointly address Europe's major social, economic and environmental challenges. This calls for an active role by the social partners at all levels alongside that of the public authorities. This Work Programme spells out the autonomous initiatives which the European Social Partners will undertake during 2009-2010.

The European social partners believe that this third work programme will enable them to address the challenges resulting from both the European integration and the globalisation processes. Moreover, the EU SP are aware of the new context created by the current financial and economic crisis and are ready to consider the short, medium and long term implications this will have on workers and employers. To foster sustainable development, the European social partners consider that Europe needs to restore economic growth, to improve competitiveness, productivity and job quality, to achieve full employment and social progress and to enhance environmental protection. In this context, they will seek to evaluate the appropriate mix of macro, micro and labour market policies conducive to stabilising the economy and to reaching sustainable growth and high levels of employment.

The European social partners will continue to foster the important role of autonomous social dialogue and its positive impact on European labour markets.

The new work programme will cover a two-year period (2009-2010) so as to be synchronised with the Growth and Jobs strategy. It will build upon the work already jointly carried out, such as the joint analysis of labour market challenges, the economic and social change agenda, reconciliation between private and professional life, capacity building for social dialogue in EU member states and candidate countries and the implementation of social dialogue instruments.

The work programme also contains a number of new initiatives which will be carried out by the European social partners.

These include:

- ✓ **A joint recommendation aimed at contributing to the definition of the Post – 2010 Lisbon agenda, also in the context of the current economic and financial crisis;**
- ✓ **The development of a joint approach to the social and employment aspects and consequences of climate change policies with a view to maximising opportunities and minimising negative effects and to identify possible joint actions;**
- ✓ **Jointly monitoring the implementation of the common principles of flexicurity, notably in order to evaluate the role and involvement of the social partners in the process and to draw joint lessons;**
- ✓ **Jointly addressing mobility and economic migration issues and promoting the integration of migrant workers in the labour market and at the workplace in order to identify possible joint actions.**

Furthermore, the European social partners will carry on developing a number of actions started under the previous work programme

These include:

- ✓ **Negotiation and implementation of an autonomous framework agreement on inclusive labour markets;**
- ✓ **Finalisation of the national studies on economic and social change in the EU-27 in order to effectively manage change and restructuring;**
- ✓ **Negotiation of a framework of actions on employment;**
- ✓ **Continuation of the work on capacity building for social partners in an enlarged EU, in the EEA and in candidate countries including further developing the activities of the social partners' respective resource centres;**
- ✓ **Monitoring, assessing and evaluating the implementation of EU social dialogue framework agreements and frameworks of actions;**
- ✓ **The European social partners will also further develop their common understanding of the various instruments resulting from their negotiations, determine their impact on the various levels of social dialogue, further co-ordinate the various levels of social dialogue and negotiations, including the development of better synergies between European inter - professional and sectoral social dialogue.**

The European social partners will employ a number of tools to realise this work.

ETUC (and the liaison committee **EUROCADRES/CEC**), **CEEP**, **BUSINESSEUROPE**, **UEAPME** consider that this work programme does not constitute an exhaustive list. The social partners may decide to up-date it in light of developments in the EU. Furthermore, they will continue to monitor the implementation of the European Growth and Jobs Strategy.

In addition to their autonomous work programme, European social partners will continue to take actions both at bipartite and tripartite levels in reaction to European Commission proposals and initiatives.

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