

## Restructuring Forum on "Anticipating and managing restructuring in a socially responsible way"

#### Brussels, 18 October 2010

Sverker Rudeberg



# What is restructuring?

- A continuous process of adaption to changes in customer preferences, technological change, competition, etc!
- Anticipation and management of restructuring is an important part of the life of companies preparing for the future.





## Is restructuring a good or a bad thing?

• Restructuring may have short-term negative social consequences.

• Restructuring is a prerequisite for longterm growth and wealth!





## How to deal with it ?

• Good social dialogue is necessary to limit negative social consequences!

 Flexicurity – job transition programmes – produces better results than financial compensation schemes!





# The role of the EU?

- A legal framework is in place!
  - Information and consultation
  - European works councils
  - Transfer of undertakings
  - Collective redundancies





 Do not forget the business perspective, the national level and activities by social partners!

- The EU can do more!
  - -EU 2020
  - -Flexicurity
  - -Exchange of practices





## What about the future?

 Codes of conduct / binding principles on the management of restructuring would ignore the diversity of situations and make it more difficult to adapt measures to them!

 Small Member States and SMEs would suffer the most!





## Where are we?

- The European Union is at a crossroads!
- We must choose between a "preservative" approach and an approach that welcomes adaptation and restructuring!







# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

