



**European Union
Statement**

**International Labour Conference
102nd session
(5-20 June 2013)**

**Committee on Sustainable Development,
Decent work and Green Jobs
Opening statement**

Geneva, 5 June 2013

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

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EU Statement

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EU Opening statement

Thank you chair,

I speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The following countries align themselves with this declaration: Croatia^{*}, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia^{*}, Montenegro^{*}, Iceland[†], Serbia^{*}, Albania^{*}, Bosnia and Herzegovina^{*}, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia.

I would like to begin by congratulating you on your appointment as Chair of this Committee.

We would like to thank the Office for the high-quality report. We welcome in particular the inclusion of an executive summary: this is a best practice that should be more widely utilized. We consider that the report and the six points for discussion provide a solid basis for our debate in the Committee.

On process, we note that this general discussion constitutes an opportunity to test the reform of the ILC. We believe that the chief focus of a general discussion should be on producing an output that: (i) focuses on the ILO's core mandate and areas of expertise; (ii) identifies policy priorities that result in concrete action; (iii) features best practice and knowledge sharing; (iv) is user-friendly and clearly outlines conclusions and future action by the Office and constituents; and (v) identifies

^{*} Acceding Country Croatia and the Candidate countries former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia as well as potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

[†] Candidate Country Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

follow-up mechanisms for implementation. (*IMEC statement GB 317, point C4*) Our aim is to ensure that the ILC is dynamic, relevant and highlights the relevance of the ILO to the modern world of work. (*IMEC Statement GB 317*)

On substance, we very much welcome this general discussion. We stress the need to enhance coherence and coordination with the post-2015/MDG process. (*Oct. 2012 Cil Concl para 6 last sentence*) We believe that sustainable development comprises on an equal footing three interlinked dimensions: environmental, social and economic. (*Oct. 2012 Cil Concl para 6 last sentence*)

Overall, we consider that sustainable development means that the needs of the present generation should be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs– it aims at the continuous improvement of the quality of life and well-being on Earth for present and future generations. It recognises that investments in human, social and environmental capital as well as technological innovation are the prerequisites for long-term competitiveness and economic prosperity, social cohesion, quality employment and better environmental protection (CC June 2006 para1). Decent work is an indispensable building block in this regard.

We believe that an inclusive green economy is one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development, and one which will enhance our ability to manage natural resources sustainably, increase resource efficiency and reduce waste, as well as to address inequalities, resilience to stress and external shocks and to promote social inclusion, social protection floors and decent work for all. We are committed to pursue a just, global transition to an inclusive green economy in collaboration with other international partners. (*Oct. 2012 Cil Concl para 11, May 2013 CC para 10*). We further believe that an overall greening of jobs, spread across traditional as well as emerging sectors, will foster the transition to a competitive, low-carbon, resource-efficient and green economy, and contribute to the fight against climate change (Dec 2010 CC, para 26)

We are committed to the promotion of full and productive employment, decent work for all, with particular attention to the young and women, as well as inclusive social protection. (*Oct. 2012 Cil Concl para 11*)

It is encouraging to see that many countries, including developing countries, have already initiated green economy processes, as the green economy can provide win-win opportunities and contribute to poverty eradication. (*Oct. 2012 Cil Concl para 12*)

We consider that, in order to be successful in reaching both environmental sustainability and good labour market outcomes, all relevant institutions at the international, national, regional and local level have to be involved and take on their responsibility. Moreover, as the challenge cuts across several domains, there is a need for cooperation between employment authorities and their counterparts in the environmental, energy, transport, economic and other fields. The social partners should be involved at all levels. International cooperation has to be reinforced in order to coordinate policies and to share knowledge. (EMCO 2010, para 7). We consider in particular that jobs and skills changes stemming from the transition to a competitive, low-carbon, resource-efficient and green economy need to be identified and anticipated and appropriate measures taken as a result (Adapted from CC 2010 para 29)

The task for us in the coming days is to provide the Office and each other with a better understanding of the diverse challenges faced by constituents and discuss possible guidance on how to respond more effectively to them.

The result of our discussion should be concise strategic and action oriented conclusions on the ILO activities we find most necessary and useful to meet the challenges of greening the economy in the context of the promotion of decent work.

We look forward to the Office guiding our work in the Committee and to working together with other governments, with employers' and workers' representatives and the ILO Office to fulfil our tasks, and we will put all our effort into contributing to a fruitful discussion.

Thank you Chair.