



European Union
Statement

International Labour Conference

102nd session

(5-20 June 2013)

**Committee on Employment and Social Protection
in the New Demographic Context**

Point 6. International Labour Office support

Geneva, 7 June 2013

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

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Point 6. International Labour Office support

EU 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^{*}, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

Because of its relevance for facing demographic changes, we want to reiterate our support for the implementation of the Plan of Action on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. We support efforts towards universal ratification and implementation of the eight fundamental ILO Conventions. We also acknowledge the important guidance provided in many other ILO instruments related to employment and social protection.

We stress the importance of implementing the strategy for action following up the adoption of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation 202, as decided at the November 2012 Governing Body.

We encourage the ILO to continue mapping employment and social protection challenges related to the new demographic context across its Member States and regions. The ILO should provide evidence-based comparative policy analysis of policies, programmes and measures that will back up the ILO's contributions in international fora and for the advice it provides in this area. We invite the ILO to consider and study the long-term social effects of the crisis on social security schemes including in Europe.

^{*} 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.

We also praise the work carried out by the Office in providing Technical assistance to improve occupational health and safety and social protection frameworks, to strengthen the institutional capacities of social partners, labour administrations and social security institutions, to design and implement decent work policies in the new demographic context and in times of increased economic and social challenges. We encourage the ILO to follow-up on these actions and we support the suggestion to provide assistance to develop national action plans on ageing and older workers based on existing ILO instruments.

We would also like the ILO to address the importance of transforming informal or undeclared work into formal or regular employment, which is emphasised in the report. Undeclared work is illegal. It also has serious budgetary implications through decreased tax and social security revenues. It has a negative impact on productivity and working standards, skills development and life-long learning. It represents only a tenuous basis for certain pension rights and access to health care. Preventing and counteracting undeclared work, implementing fully Directive 2009/52/EC on sanctions and illegal workers, as well as helping undeclared workers integrate into the regular labour market helps in the process of fiscal consolidation, creating a more level playing field for businesses and improving quality of employment. It also extends labour and social protection rights to vulnerable groups. To meet this goal, the ILO could provide assistance to governments upon request in order to ensure compliance with labour legislation.

On a more general note, we strongly encourage the ILO to continue its important work in the capacity-building of trade unionism, employers' organizations and governments as constructive social dialogue will be an important mechanism to deal with the challenges of the new demographic context.

Finally, we would like to stress that to improve the effectiveness of the ILO in promoting policy coherence, we support the Office's increased engagement at international level and coordination with other organisations active in the field of demographic challenges.

Thank you Chair.