



European Union

Statement

**ILO Governing Body, 319th session
(16 – 31 October 2013)**

"Follow up to the resolution concerning the recurrent discussion on social dialogue"

(GB.319/POL/3)

Geneva, 22 October 2013

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

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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: Turkey^{*}, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[†], Montenegro[†], Iceland[‡], Serbia[†], Albania[†], Bosnia and Herzegovina[†], Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia.

We would like to thank the Office for the proposal of a plan of action on social dialogue to implement the conclusions adopted by the International Labour Conference (ILC) at its 102nd Session in 2013, following the recurrent discussion on social dialogue. These conclusions demonstrate the role of social dialogue and its interrelations with the other three strategic objectives.

We fully support the first Component of the plan entitled “Promotional campaigns and policy”. Its objective is to increase ratification and improved implementation of relevant international labour standards through promotional campaigns and policy dialogue. We encourage and support the worldwide ratification and implementation of the eight core conventions, including 87 and 98. We also support the organization of a meeting of experts who will analyse “contemporary experiences, challenges and trends” characterizing cross-border social dialogue initiatives, such as transnational company agreements and social dialogue within regional groupings.

We very much welcome the preparations for a general discussion on decent work in global supply chains and urge all members of the Governing Body to put this item on the ILC agenda not later than 2016.

^{*} Candidate country

[†] 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.

The aim of the second component “Knowledge generation and dissemination” is to generate an evidence-based body of knowledge to increase the capacity of the Office to provide effective technical advisory and capacity-building services. We support also that the action plan aims to upgrade the status and capacity of the Office as a centre of knowledge, policy advice and capacity building on collective bargaining. This will require the improvement of the statistical, institutional and legal database on industrial relations (IRData), expanding its breadth and coverage.

Concerning the research on the dispute resolution system described in paragraph 22, we want to point out that the primary aim is to assist countries at national level to build up or to improve such systems by sharing experiences and good practices. Bearing in mind that the recurrent discussion on social dialogue 2013 even rejected an expert meeting on the subject, we are not convinced by pursuing the idea of an ILC discussion on labour dispute settlement resolution.

When it comes to the third component “Policy advice and technical services“, we would like to have more information about the study that the Office intends to launch concerning the impact of labour law reforms on collective bargaining and labour relations. More precisely, how the Office will advise countries on the potential outcomes of envisaged labour law reform and on legal frameworks most conducive to sound industrial relations. We would also like to have more information on the way the Office intends to give effect to point 12.12 of the conclusions relating to workplace cooperation.

As the conclusions underline it, there is a need to enhance tripartite social dialogue in policy formulation, including addressing socio-economic development objectives. In others words, conclusions said that the ILO should “Further strengthen its capacities to support constituents through integrated and coherent policy advice, encompassing rights at work, employment, social protection and social dialogue.” We ask the office to include this in the action plan in a more visible way.

The action plan should be completed with a reference and the modalities in order to promote gender equality, and increase and strengthen women’s participation and engagement in social dialogue mechanisms.

These two elements should be incorporated in the action plan and to the Monitoring and review mechanism. We agree that the plan of action will be regularly reviewed and adjusted as required to reflect continuously evolving economic and political contexts and new priorities that may emerge, but we would like to ask to have a calendar of this mechanism.

We welcome the proposal, in the activity matrix 2014-17, of possible areas for our cooperation in the implementation of the action plan.

A point for decision has always to be included in line with the GB reform 2010 and which have correctly been proposed in comparable ILC follow-up documents INS 3/2 and INS 3/3. We therefore propose the following decision points:

The Governing Body requests the Director General to adapt the plan of action and the activity matrix for the implementation of the ILC conclusions of the recurrent discussion on social dialogue in light of the guidance expressed in the GB discussion.

The Governing Body requests the Director General to present a progress report for the autumn session of the GB in 2015.

Thank you Chair.