



European Union
Statement

International Labour Conference
103rd session

(28 May - 12 June 2014)

Committee on the Transition from the informal to the formal economy
EU Closing Statement

Geneva, 11 June 2014

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

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Thank you chair.

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

The following countries align themselves with this declaration: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[†], Montenegro[†], Iceland[‡], Serbia[†], Albania[†], Bosnia and Herzegovina[†], the Republic of Moldova and Armenia.

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to take the floor at this closing session.

We thank the rapporteur for her report and would like to express our appreciation for the work of the Committee on transitioning from the informal to the formal economy and the discussions we have had over the last two weeks.

The future Recommendation should aim at reaching the common goal of providing millions of people currently in the informal economy with rights, voices, dignity and safe working conditions as part of the transition. Bringing them under the protection of the law and out of informality would be a major step forward.

We appreciate that issues concerning the workforce, the labour market, the national social protection floors and social security systems, working conditions, social dialogue, inclusive development and the sustainability of enterprises and fair competition in national and international markets, and strong references to Decent work will be at the heart of the strategy to address the informal economy.

[†] 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.

Fundamental challenges are still ahead of us, and it is clear to us that it will take the continuous constructive engagement of all parties to ensure that we reach our common goal. A number of very important issues were not resolved this year and we hope that the Committee will manage to overcome these difficulties in 2015.

We will continue along this line until the adoption of the Recommendation, and argue that undeclared work should be addressed by specific measures. We hope to find common understanding on these important issues to us. Be assured that we will bring a positive contribution in trying to find a consensus on these issues.

We would like to thank the Chair the Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur of the Committee as well as the Members of the Drafting Committee for their work. We would also like to acknowledge, and express our gratitude for the important support provided by the Office.

We support the adoption of the Resolution and of the Conclusions for a Recommendation concerning “facilitating transitions from the informal to the formal economy” in view of the second discussion for the adoption of a Recommendation next year.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.