

**The European Social Model in the Context of Globalization  
High-Level Dialogue**

International Training Centre of the ILO  
Turin, Italy  
1-3 July 2008

Provisional Programme

**DAY ONE 1 July 2008**

**REGISTRATION AND BUFFET LUNCH**

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

**SESSION 1            Globalization and managing change in the  
                                 world of work**  
What is the role of the social partners?

With the transforming impact of accelerating trade and capital flows on the European economy, questions about labour market adjustment continue to be of great policy and practical importance.

The European Community has long promoted the role of social dialogue as an important driving force behind economic and social reform. Negotiations among social partners are in fact considered the most suitable way forward on questions related to modernization and the management of change.

The objective of this session will be to consider what role the social partners can play to anticipate, prepare for and manage change at the enterprise, sectoral, country and community levels. It will also reflect on the effectiveness of country and EU tools and strategies for coping with change such as the new European Globalization Adjustment Fund.

**GROUP SESSIONS**

**PLENARY DISCUSSION**

**COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

**SESSION 2**

**Flexicurity**

Putting theory into practice

Often debated and just as often misunderstood, flexicurity is a policy approach that has emerged at the centre of the Lisbon Agenda as a response to the challenges posed by globalization, technological change and an ageing population in Europe. While considered by some as the most suitable strategy to address current labour market problems, others view flexicurity as a path to instability and insecurity.

The objective of this session will be to further explore flexicurity in all its dimensions and particularly from the practical point of view of the social partners. Finding the right balance between flexibility and security is an important issue for social dialogue, as policy-makers and the social partners should agree on institutional and even enterprise reforms that are acceptable to all parties concerned.

To ensure that this session directly addresses the concerns of participants and does not imitate the same well-worn path of previous debates, it will take a slightly different approach. Prior to the start of the event, participants will be asked to submit their own questions and comments on flexicurity through the event webpage. These responses will be used to shape the expert interventions and subsequent group debates looking in particular at the different attitudes of the social partners towards flexicurity in the EU 15 and the new member states.

**GROUP SESSIONS**

**PLENARY DISCUSSION**

**LUNCH**

**SESSION 3**

**Modernizing the EU Social Model for Sustainability**

The future of the European model in the face of globalization

The European social model is commonly described as based on good economic performance, a high level of social protection, education and social dialogue. Maintaining and indeed strengthening each of these elements in an environment of global competition is seen as a strategic policy challenge.

Does modernization mean that the social agenda will be compromised or do economic, employment and social policy truly form a policy 'triangle' in which they mutually reinforce one another?

The objective of this session will be to consider the direction of modernization of the European social model and in particular to understand better the actual and potential contributions of the social partners to this process.

**GROUP SESSIONS**

**PLENARY DISCUSSION**

**CULTURAL EXCURSION AND DINNER**

**SPECIAL  
MINISTERIAL  
SESSION**

**The European Social Model as a Reference for the World**

**REPORT OF PREVIOUS DAYS SESSIONS**

**THEME ONE            A Social Model for Dynamic  
Economies. Promoting decent work  
and growth**

**THEME TWO            The Social Dimension of Regional  
Integration**

This final special session will bring together Ministers of Labour from several prominent EU as well as non-EU countries to have an unique exchange on whether the European social model is a decent work example for the rest of the world. Ministers will be invited to share experiences from their own countries on balancing economic and social development in the face of global economic forces. They will also discuss the social dimension of regional economic integration and how the EU serves as a model for other communities to follow (e.g. MERCOSUR, SADC, SAARC)

**LUNCHEON AND CLOSING REMARKS**