

Introduction to the: Joint Labour Market Analysis, and Joint Statement on the Europe 2020 Strategy

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Outline

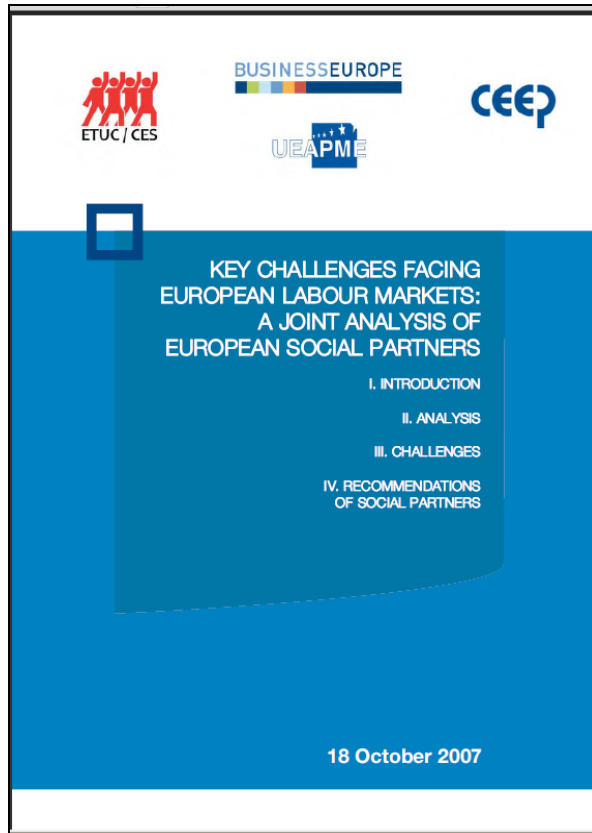
- Joint Labour Market Analysis
- Joint Statement on the EU 2020 strategy

Joint Labour Market Analysis

Joint Labour Market Analysis: Background

- **The Work Programme of the European Social Partners 2006-2008:**
 - **In order to contribute to enhancing Europe's employment and growth potential and the impact of the European social dialogue, the social partners undertake to make a joint analysis on the key challenges facing Europe's labour markets, looking at issues such as:**
 - **macro-economic and labour market policies,**
 - **demographic change, active ageing, youth integration, mobility and migration,**
 - **lifelong learning, competitiveness, innovation and the integration of disadvantaged groups on the labour market,**
 - **balance between flexibility and security,**
 - **undeclared work.**

The outcome:



Key Challenges Facing European Labour Markets: A Joint Analysis of European Social Partners – Adopted on 18 October 2007

Document divided in four main chapters:

I, Introduction

II, Analysis

III, Challenges

IV, Recommendations of Social Partners

I. Introduction

- **European social partners reiterate their support for the Lisbon strategy aimed at turning Europe into the most competitive knowledge-based society in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth, with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.**
- **The Lisbon strategy is about improving our competitiveness in high added-value products and services and more generally about securing Europe's place on world markets by moving up the ladder of innovation, technology and productivity.**
- **In order to contribute to enhancing Europe's employment and growth potential and the impact of the European social dialogue, the European social partners have undertaken the following joint analysis on the key challenges facing Europe's labour markets.**
- **This joint analysis will form the basis to decide appropriate joint recommendations to the EU and national institutions.**

II. Analysis

Chapter divided in 10 sub-chapters, focusing on:

- 1. Growth**
- 2. Employment, Unemployment and Productivity**
- 3. Demography**
- 4. Job creation**
- 5. Contractual arrangements**
- 6. Active Labour Market Policies**
- 7. Education, training and lifelong learning**
- 8. Social cohesion**
- 9. Mobility**
- 10. Additional elements of job quality**

III. Challenges

(I)

- **Some positive developments in the labour markets have been visible over the last decade but this is considered as insufficient.**
- **To foster the development of more and better jobs, Europe needs to enhance growth, productivity, employment and social cohesion.**
- **This requires economic and social policies that are mutually re-inforcing, putting the priority on the twin objectives of employment and productivity and takes into account the existing diversity between Member States.**
- **The right mix of policy measures should rest on the following:**

III. Challenges

(II)

- **A. Active labour market policies and economic policies**
 - Active labour market policies and education and training;
 - Sound macro-economic policies & favourable business environment.
- **B. Social protection and cohesion**
 - Tax and social protection systems;
 - A supportive public environment;
 - Social cohesion.
- **C. Labour regulation and industrial relations**
 - Mobility;
 - Undeclared work;
 - Social dialogue;
 - Labour law and contractual arrangements.
- **D. Flexicurity**

IV. Recommendations of social partners

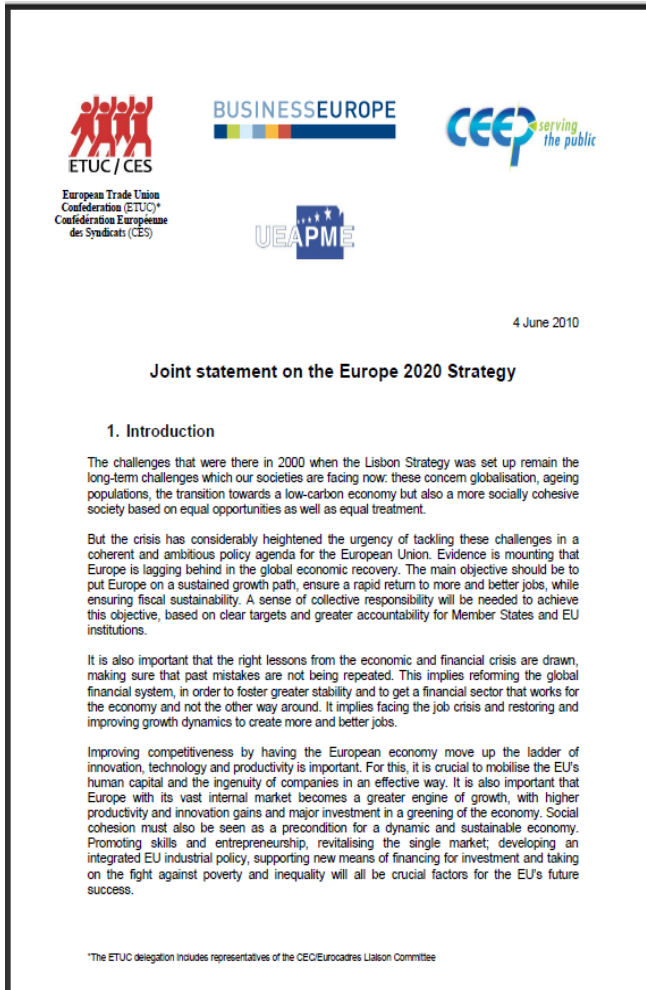
- **Final chapter focusing on joint social partner recommendations to the EU and Member States, as well as highlighting specific European social partner activities**
- **Basically all policy issues mentioned under chapter II, Challenges, are addressed in this final chapter**

Joint statement on the Europe 2020 Strategy

Joint statement on the Europe 2020 Strategy: Background

- **The Work Programme of the European Social Partners 2008-2010:**
 - **Among several initiatives listed in the Work Programme, European social partners committed to carry out:**
 - **A joint recommendation aimed at contributing to the definition of the Post – 2010 Lisbon agenda, also in the context of the current economic and financial crisis.**

The outcome:



Joint statement on the Europe 2020 Strategy – adopted and presented on 4 June 2010 in a meeting with President Barroso and Commissioner Andor

Document containing three chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Policy priorities
3. Governance and procedures

1. Introduction

- **Challenges that were there in 2000 when the Lisbon Strategy was set up still remain valid: globalisation, ageing populations, the transition towards a low-carbon economy etc.**
- **The crisis has considerably heightened the urgency of tackling these challenges in a coherent and ambitious policy agenda for the European Union. Evidence is mounting that Europe is lagging behind in the global economic recovery. The main objective should be to put Europe on a sustained growth path, ensure a rapid return to more and better jobs, while ensuring fiscal sustainability.**
- **Important that the right lessons from the economic and financial crisis are drawn, making sure that past mistakes are not being repeated.**
- **Improving competitiveness by having the European economy move up the ladder of innovation, technology and productivity is important. For this, it is crucial to mobilise the EU's human capital and the ingenuity of companies in an effective way.**

2. Policy priorities

(I)

- **2.1 Combining exit and entry strategies**
 - The clear objective of macro-economic policies should be to regain scope for action and be able to mobilise the necessary resources to sustain growth-enhancing investments while ensuring the sustainability of public finances and social protection systems in order to maintain intergenerational solidarity and cohesion.
 - This means to combine and sequence an exit strategy to cap public indebtedness with an entry strategy, investing in skills, technology and modern infrastructures.
- **2.2 Promoting the knowledge triangle (education, research, innovation)**
 - Europe must further strengthen its potential in terms of skilled workers, science, research and technology and thus its capacity to innovate as a key element of competitiveness.
 - In any case, the knowledge triangle must remain at the heart of the EU2020 strategy.

2. Policy priorities

(II)

- **2.3 Employment and social policies**
 - European employment rates are substantially lagging behind. The 70% employment rate target of the Lisbon Strategy is further out of reach than before the crisis. This is a matter of immediate concern.
 - A significantly higher growth rate, along with the creation of more and better jobs, is a precondition for achieving the EU employment rate of 75%, and successfully addressing the labour market and financial implications of population ageing.
 - To reach these objectives, modern labour markets are required.
- **2.4 A supportive public environment and access to high-quality, affordable and effective public services**
 - The EU 2020 strategy should address public services' accessibility, quality and effectiveness; fostering their capacity to innovate and modernise. Effective public services provide an important infrastructure for business development and citizens' quality of life.
 - Efficient and sustainable social systems, providing income support and fostering labour market mobility and integration, are also a key prerequisite to citizen welfare and private business strength.

3. Governance and procedures

- **Although Member States have the main responsibility for implementation of structural reforms, there needs to be an appropriate European framework enabling them to be implemented in a coordinated and consistent way.**
- **The absence of such a European framework was one of the main reasons why the Lisbon Strategy did not deliver.**
- **The Commission should closely monitor progress and exert its right of alert when Member States are not delivering on agreed commitments.**
- **A pre-condition for the success of new governance mechanisms is a stronger involvement of the social partners at all levels.**

Thank you!



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The views expressed herein are those of the European Social Partners and can therefore in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Commission.