



The European Commission's role in European Social Dialogue

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Legal Basis - The Treaty (TFEU)

- **The Treaty provisions: Art. 152 – 155 TFEU**
- **The Treaties process: a Social Partner/Commission win-win strategy within EU integration**
- **"Autonomy of the social partners"**
"Diversity of national industrial relations systems"

Forms of EU Social Dialogue

- **Consultations, negotiations, joint actions**
- **Bipartite/Tripartite**
- **Cross-industry/Sectoral**
 - **Cross-industry:**
BusinessEurope – CEEP – UEAPME
ETUC (Eurocadres/CEC)
 - **Sectors (43)**
16 Sectoral ETUC Federations – 65 Sectoral Employer organisations



Initiatives and Outcomes

- agreements (implemented autonomously or via EU legislation)/Process texts/Joint opinions etc.
- The Commission provides policy support, and also financial/logistic assistance "prerogative" budget lines (35 MIO per year)
- Support to Committees: more than 200 meetings a year
- Tripartite social summit, macro-economic dialogue...
- Social partners develop their autonomous work programme

Changing Conditions

Demography, globalisation and technological change, but also:

- **enlargement and increased disparities and diversity within the EU**
- **the crisis and the responses to the crisis**
- **the paradigms and instruments of EU integration: less legislation; more economic policy coordination**

Current/recent achievements and shortcomings

- **Cross-industry social dialogue**
 - Framework of Actions on Youth employment
 - Joint declaration on economic governance
 - Negotiation on labour market challenges (underway)
 - But uneven implementation of autonomous agreements
- **Sectoral social dialogue**
 - Dynamism of sectoral social dialogue
 - Agreements in hairdressing, fisheries, inland waterways

The way forward – 'a new start for social dialogue'

- **Commitment Commission Juncker**
 - **Vice-President for euro and social dialogue**
 - **High level conference on 5 March with key themes:**
 - **European Semester**
 - **Strengthening capacity**
 - **Investment plan**
 - **Digitalisation**
 - **Regulation**
 - **Skills and anticipation to change**
- **Next steps...**



www.ec.europa.eu/socialdialogue