BELGIUM: THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL PARTNERS

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COMMON UNDERSTANDING : THE FIRST KEY PRINCIPLES

- **September 2010**: Belgian conference of the CNT-CCE and CESE in the involvement of the social partners in the EU2020 Strategy and in the coming European Semester.

- **November 2011**: First National report of the Councils in relation with the Semester.

- - Early awareness process on the national challenges of the Semester. Social partners agreed on the fact that the Semester was shaping new forms of designing policies that they were supposed to be at the heart of the implementing.
**STRONG NATIONAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE INSTITUTIONS**: 2\textsuperscript{ND} KEY PRINCIPLES

- strong social dialogue institutions which provide **information**: immediate link with permanent representatives (EMCO, SPC)
- On a very regular base a lot of consultation (but not influencing the process of the Semester)
- Great implication of the national SP in the Semester: NRP’s jointly commented
EUROPEAN SUPPORT AND IMPLICATION: 3\textsuperscript{ND} KEY PRINCIPLE

- Belgian SP’s involvement in the European social dialogue

- Reshape of the Semester + political context: an opportunity for the Employers …

- The European support initiatives (capacity building process of the ETUC towards its members, raising awareness in the different social dialogue levels, …) \( \rightarrow \) the Joint declaration: a relaunch of the joint social interest!
TODAY : GREAT INVOLVEMENT, NO INFLUENCE

- Belgian good example ?
- Government not willing to reinforce the social dialogue
- European Governance : an argument for reforms and policies without proper SP’s consultation, CSR’s are an opportunity to justify other measures, ...

- **BUT today** : CSR’s and country reports more realistic
- Relaunching of the European social dialogue ...the only way forward !

Thank you !