

BELGIUM : THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL PARTNERS

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Conference Promoting and Reinforcing the EU social Dialogue, 5-6 July 2016 Brussels Panel III : Improving the involvement of social partners in the European economic governance/Semester and in assessing, designing, agreeing and implementing relevant policies/reforms

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 : 2ND 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: 3ND 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, ...) -> 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 !



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