



Final draft

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Joint contribution on the EU Youth Initiative

ETUC¹, CEEP, UNICE/UEAPME welcome the initiative taken to draw up an EU Youth Initiative within the framework of the Lisbon strategy. This will allow the necessary attention to be paid to the crucial issue of integrating young people into the labour market.

Given their specific knowledge about labour market needs and considering the current skills gaps, CEEP, UNICE/UEAPME and ETUC decided, in the EU social dialogue work programme 2003-2005, to produce a joint declaration and/or awareness raising campaigns with a view to promoting young people's interest in science and technology.

CEEP, UNICE/UEAPME and ETUC also recall that their annual joint report on the follow up to their framework of actions on the life long development of competences and qualifications and their joint report on national social partners actions to implement the European employment strategy highlight specific initiatives to improve the situation of young people in education, training and their integration into the labour market.

The European social partners consider that, in order to improve the overall functioning of its labour markets, Europe needs a truly intergenerational approach. Therefore, considering the demographic challenge the EU is facing, they also agreed to explore possible joint actions in the field of ageing workforce. To develop active ageing strategies while favouring at the same time the entering of young people into the labour market is indeed the core of a genuine intergenerational approach.

The European social partners call on the EU Council to take this approach into consideration when elaborating their "European Youth Initiative".

In the light of the conclusions of the Spring European Council, ETUC, CEEP, UNICE/UEAPME will consider further joint actions to contribute to the European Youth Initiative when preparing the next work programme of their autonomous social dialogue.

¹ The ETUC delegation includes representatives of the EUROCADRES/CEC Liaison Committee