Towards a European Pillar of Social Rights

4 April 2016
Social dialogue academy
What is the European Pillar of Social Rights?

A stated objective of the Juncker Commission – ‘social market economy’

Consultation launched 8 March to run until the end of 2016

Primarily 2 documents: a communication and an annex

Culminating in a ‘European conference’ organised by the Commission
Key points from a trade union perspective

This could be the beginning of the ‘Social Europe’ that we have been demanding for many years.

An strategic opportunity for ETUC to develop our own vision and capacity utilising the knowledge, skills and experience of key affiliates.

A way to build confidence in EU by showing that the EU can respond to needs of workers, their families and communities.
Our approach

“A social pillar built on decent work foundations”

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Social dialogue, collective bargaining and involvement of workers
Linking the consultation to trade union priorities

An explicit role from the Commission for national partners in the consultation – we can use this to identify the strongest examples amongst affiliates as well as co-ordinate responses.

The consultation is open and wide-ranging with clear opportunities to present the ETUC Vision that we are developing.

Current agreement on framework for the consultation is necessarily quite complex but clear...
The consultation – state of play

High-level meeting already taken place on 11 April in which several gains were achieved in relation to the process;

Commitment to the “3 3s”: tripartite (where possible) agreement in three streams of consultation across three chapters of content:

- On the ‘social acquis’
- On the future of work
- On the Social Pillar Annex text
How the TRIPARTITE consultation works

11 April: High level consultation

Optional ongoing high level consultation

Optional ongoing high level consultation

European conference

Agreement-seeking social dialogue

Exploratory dedicated hearings

June: Standing social dialogue committee

May: Dedicated Hearing 1 Equal opportunities and access to the labour market

September: Standing social dialogue committee

June: Dedicated Hearing 2 Fair working conditions

September: Dedicated Hearing 3 Adequate and sustainable social protections

Plus: An additional social dialogue committee offered

Smaller working groups on specific issues

Technical/advisory working groups
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Chapter one: equal opportunities and access to labour markets

1. Skills, education and life-long learning
2. Flexible and secure labour contracts
3. Secure professional transitions
4. Active support for employment
5. Gender equality and work-life balance
6. Equal opportunities
Chapter two: fair working conditions

7. Conditions of employment
8. Wages
9. Health and safety at work
10. Social dialogue and involvement of workers
Chapter three: adequate and sustainable social protection

11. Integrated social benefits and services
12. Health care and sickness benefits
13. Pensions
14. Unemployment benefits
15. Minimum income
16. Disability benefits
17. Long-term care
18. Childcare
19. Housing
20. Access to essential services
Social Pillar activity

From an employment perspective:

What are the key priorities?
What is missing from the contents that we would want to see?
What are the primary concerns?
How should the social rights contained be implemented?
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