The Swedish social partners involvement in policy design, reforms and implementation

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The Swedish labour market - characteristics

• Strong role of social partners on the labour market. Almost 90% of employees covered by collective agreements.

• Collective agreements an important instrument
  – to set wages (no statutory minimum wage, no extension of collective agreements)
  – possibility to deviate from labour law

• Strong support for the model from government, employers and trade unions. Few days - in international comparison - lost in strikes
Social partners in the European Semester

- History of close involvement of social partners in the national implementation of EU growth and employment policies.
- With Europe 2020 – a more institutionalised framework for dialogue was jointly agreed.
- Social partner involvement in the semester – a political priority.
Examples of social partner involvement in European Semester

• A jointly agreed and institutionalised process of consultation throughout the semester.
• In line with NRP guidance – substantial contribution from social partners to SE NRP for several years.
• Consultation meeting ahead of every EPSCO council meeting.