

Online Conference

“Social dialogue as an important pillar of economic sustainability and the resilience of economies in Europe”

10 November 2020, 9.30–11.00

9:30 h Welcome and opening: Mr Niels Annen, Minister of State, Federal Foreign Office, and Member of the German Bundestag

Facilitator: Dr Erika Mezger, Senior Adviser European Policy Centre (EPC)

Co-facilitator: Ms Monika M Sommer, Federal Foreign Office

9:35 h Exploratory opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), presented by:

- Ms Christa Schweng, President of the EESC
- Ms Vladimíra Drbalová, rapporteur
- Ms Cinzia Del Rio, rapporteur

9:50 h High-Level Panel: Social dialogue and social partnership in Germany – what is key to successfully managing crises?

- Mr Niels Annen, Minister of State, Federal Foreign Office
- Mr Reiner Hoffmann, President, German Trade Union Confederation (DGB)
- Dr Holger Bingmann, Member of the Board of Directors of the Federation of German Wholesale, Foreign Trade and Services (BGA), Member of the Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA)

10:10 h Participatory models in times of crisis? – Lessons learnt and research findings

- Ms Valeria Pulignano, Professor of Labour Sociology and Industrial Relations, KU Leuven
- Ms Maria Jepsen, Deputy Director, Eurofound
- Ms Esther Lynch, Deputy General Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- Mr Nuno Biscaya, DAJSL, CIP, Confederation of Portuguese Business
- Ms Kauffmann, Barbara, DG EMPL, “Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion”, European Commission
- Mr Andrea Garnero, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

10:40 h General debate; questions and comments from the chat

10:55 h Outlook (Ms Erika Mezger)

11:00 h End of Conference

The aim of the conference is

- to acknowledge and highlight the findings of the study/opinion carried out by the EESC at the request of the German Council Presidency
- to strengthen awareness for social dialogue with a view to the sustainability and resilience of European economies, especially in times of crisis
- to broaden the discussion on substantial structural elements for efficient social partnership and participation in member states and in Europe as a whole.