

Speech

Tripartite Social Summit

Maxime Legrand, President of CEC European Managers
19 October 2022, Brussels

Madam President, Esteemed authorities, dear colleagues,

As President of CEC European Managers, the European social partner organization representing managers, I will speak today on behalf of the liaison committee formed with Eurocadres, the joint managerial representation in the social dialogue.

As the cold season approaches, the prospect of a long winter of discontent to bring severe economic, political and social tensions is more than ever real. The effects of this energy-driven inflation spike are a disturbing reality for a growing number of European citizens, impacting disproportionately low-income workers but affecting all.

The people we represent, managers who keep the factories producing and the citizens receiving the services they need, tell us every day of the difficulties they encounter in trying to ensure business as usual and of the risk that entire sectors of our economies will not survive.

Moreover, if this scenario is not avoided, it will be impossible for Europe to focus on its long-agreed strategic priorities, such as the Green Deal or even safeguarding our democracy.

European social forces expect EU policymakers to act with the same boldness and in the same spirit of European unity demonstrated during the COVID pandemic.

Looking at energy, in the short run your action will have to ensure that prices on the common market allows businesses to continue to produce in Europe, neutralizing speculation, while continuing to provide financial support to households.

The proposal of the European Commission for a temporary solidarity contribution goes in the right direction.

In the long run, a reform of the EU energy market is necessary, to normalize its functioning and accompany the transition towards independence, carbon-free production, and energy source diversification through all available technological solutions and without preconceptions. Europe has provided peace and food sufficiency; Europe must now achieve energy security.

In delivering these objectives decision-makers in Brussels and in the Member States must look at social partners as indispensable allies who provide essential expertise who can mobilize EU citizens who can ensure that a good social dialogue in companies has a positive impact on society.

Many thanks for your attention.

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