

## Joint DRAFT for the Social Dialogue Committee meeting of 8 November 2005

### Work Programme of the European Social Partners 2006-2008

UNICE/UEAPME, CEEP, ETUC (and the liaison committee EUROCADRES/CEC) reiterate their support for the Lisbon Strategy aimed at turning Europe into the most competitive knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth, with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. Europe's weakness in terms of growth and employment needs to be addressed in order to face the challenges of demographic change, globalisation and technological innovation.

The European social dialogue work programme for 2003-2005 has successfully contributed to the implementation of this strategy. It has also been useful to better focus the European social dialogue over the past three years and to enhance its autonomy. The European social partners notably negotiated two framework agreements on telework and work-related stress, two frameworks of actions on the lifelong learning and gender equality and developed a programme to assist social partners of the new Member States joining in the EU social dialogue.

Through this second work programme for 2006-2008, the European Social Partners want to contribute to and promote growth, jobs and the modernisation of the EU social model. ETUC, UNICE/UEAPME and CEEP see this work programme as a means of further reinforcing the social partners autonomy. Its quality of outcome in the enlarged EU implies a renewed focus on jointly agreed measures accompanied by effective use and efficient organisation of the follow-up provisions and monitoring activities.

The European Social Partners believe that their new work programme should focus on Europe's major economic and social challenges, in order to ensure that the social dialogue at European level deals with the major concerns of Europe's workers and employers.

Accordingly, in order to contribute to enhancing Europe's employment and growth potential and the impact of the European social dialogue, the social partners undertake to make **a joint analysis on the key challenges** facing Europe's labour markets.

On that basis, they will:

1. make joint recommendations to EU and national institutions on how to address key issues facing Europe, such as:
  - Macro-economic and labour market policies,
  - Demographic change,
  - Undeclared work;

2. prepare a framework of actions on employment tackling the main challenges mentioned above and identifying priorities for action for the social partners having compared various strategies used on issues such as:
  - Flexi security,
  - Productivity and innovation,
  - Mobility and migration,
  - Lifelong learning,
  - Active ageing,
  - Youth integration;
3. complete the national studies on economic and social change in the EU 10, enlarge them to cover the EU 15 and on that basis review the orientations for reference on managing change and its social consequences;
4. continue their work of capacity building for the social dialogue in the new member states and extend it to candidate countries, and examine how the employers and trade union resource centres providing technical assistance to the 10 new member states could provide help to social partners of all EU countries;
5. report on the implementation of the telework as well as the work-related stress agreements and on the follow up to the framework of actions on gender equality;
6. based on the implementation of the telework agreement and the framework of actions on the lifelong development of competences and qualifications, further develop their common understanding of these instruments and how they can have a positive impact at the various levels of social dialogue.

CEEP, UNICE/UEAPME and ETUC consider that this work programme does not constitute an exhaustive list. The social partners may decide to react to consultations on various EU policy proposals arising, as they did on harassment and violence at work on which negotiations will take place in 2006. Furthermore, they will continue to monitor the implementation of the European Growth and Jobs Strategy.

The European social partners will continue to employ a variety of tools in order to realise this work programme.