

Brussels, 16 June 2009

Commission joins the ILO High Level Summit on the Global Jobs Crisis

From 15-17 June, 2009, the 98th session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), the highest tripartite authority of the International Labour Organisation, is holding a Summit on the Global Jobs Crisis. Representing the European Commission in a Panel on "Global and regional coordination to address the jobs crisis", Commissioner Vladimír Špidla presented the Commission's recent initiative on a "Shared Commitment for Employment". In welcoming the ILO's proposal for a Global Jobs Pact, he highlighted the benefits of global cooperation in tackling the employment and social effects of the crisis.

"The European Commission welcomes the ILO's proposal for a Global Jobs Pact," said Vladimír Špidla, EU Commissioner for Employment. He added: "The Pact's emphasis on maintaining jobs, bringing people back into employment and the importance given to social protection is in tune with the European Commission's approach. This commitment at a global level is a further important step in mitigating the negative effects of the crisis and paving the way to the creation of a sustainable and just recovery. The success of any measures will depend on the willingness of all stakeholders to invest in increased coordination and partnership."

The European Commission has, since the beginning of the crisis, underlined its human and global dimension and the need for a coordinated and international response. The Commission has actively participated in international initiatives, such as the G20 Summit in London and the G8/G14 Employment Ministerial in Rome. The European Commission is working closely with the ILO to address the employment and social dimension of the crisis.

Promoting mobility is a key element of the European Commission's approach to tackling the jobs crisis, which includes several concrete measures such as a new "Match and Map" online tool to seek job vacancies. Commissioner Špidla will call for a better tapping of the potential of free movement of workers within the EU at an informal meeting of Ministers of Labour and Social Policy on labour mobility in times of crisis, which is organised by the Czech EU Presidency during the International Labour Conference. He will also underline the need to continue efforts for a better integration of migrants, to ensure the long-term benefits of legal migration.

Background

The International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organization is held every year in Geneva, Switzerland. Member States of the ILO meet in a tripartite setting: government delegates, workers and employers are represented. More than 4,000 delegates are attending this 98th Session of the International Labour Conference to discuss the central theme of the social and employment impact of the crisis. All EU Member States are Members of the ILO. The European Commission and the ILO have a longstanding partnership on decent work issues, and this cooperation has been intensified to enhance the response to the crisis.

The Commission's communication on a 'Shared Commitment for Employment' will be discussed by the European Council on 18 and 19 June.

For further information

A Shared Commitment for Employment (Part 1: Commission Communication and Part 2: Annexes)

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=514&furtherNews=yes>

President Barroso's crisis website:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/focus/credit_crunch/index_en.htm

Website on the social impacts of the crisis:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=736>

98th Session of the International Labour Conference, 3-19 June 2009:

http://www.ilo.org/global/What_we_do/Officialmeetings/ilc/ILCSessions/98thSession/lang--en/index.htm