



**EPSU public services workshop**

**Brussels 29 January 2008**



# Workshop objectives

- ✓ Discuss the content of public services resolution for EPSU 2009 Congress
- ✓ Working method:
  - ✓ Take stock of EU developments
  - ✓ Update on national developments
  - ✓ Draft outline of resolution together
  - ✓ Develop text after the meeting for input into EPSU Resolution's Committee (meets 12 March and 9 October 2008)

# Overview of 2009 Congress (1)

- ✓ 8-11 June 2009, Flagey Centre Brussels
- ✓ Theme: Quality public services – quality of life!
- ✓ Resolutions:
  - ✓ Public services
  - ✓ Collective bargaining / social dialogue / employment conditions / trade union rights
  - ✓ EPSU sectoral policies (separate resolutions)
  - ✓ Equal pay
  - ✓ Building EPSU as a trade union organisation
  - ✓ Other? Executive Committee (26/27 November 2008) raised e.g., of ethnic minorities / migrant workers, climate change, external dimension
- ✓ Standard format, short(er), action-orientated (with explanatory note if needed), overall cohesion

# Overview of 2009 Congress (2)

Other Congress documentation:

- ✓ Brochure examples of successful public service campaigns
- ✓ PR video: put 'faces' to public services
- ✓ Finance report 2004 – 2008
- ✓ Assembled reports of activities 2004 - 2008

# Recap on EPSU public services resolution 2004 (1)

## OUTLINE:

- ✓ Recognised that public services principles continue to be eroded; but also growing awareness of contribution of “*dynamic welfare state*”
- ✓ Identified challenges:
  - ✓ Funding: budgetary restraints – “*intelligent social investment*” needed to increase investment
  - ✓ Quality employment in the public sector: how to respond to pressures of funding, demographic change, competition with private sector, private-sector methods in public sector
  - ✓ Liberalisation / privatisation: how to ensure State remains responsible for funding and delivery of public services

# Recap on EPSU public services resolution 2004 (2)

## AIMS:

- ✓ Ensure public services feature in EU Treaty and that they are at heart of EU social model
- ✓ Limit EU-internal market and competition policy
- ✓ Defend/improve fair taxation policies
- ✓ Improve “quality” public services within framework of responding to needs; worker involvement; transparency
- ✓ Exclude public services from WTO-GATS process
- ✓ Strengthen the role of public (e.g. in PuP’s) as an alternative to private involvement

# Recap on EPSU public services 'achievements' 2004+

- ✓ Relaunching EU legal framework debate
- ✓ Alliance-building on quality public services (ETUC, PES+, NGOs, CoR, EESC, employers, academics – no longer only public service union concern)
- ✓ Preventing /limiting liberalisation (water, energy, services directive, health directive)
- ✓ Developing policy and conducting research in new areas (PPPs, State Aid, eGovernment, decentralisation)
- ✓ Integrating public service issues into social dialogue
- ✓ Supporting / coordinating national and local actions

# EU current developments regarding public services (1)

- ✓ Lisbon Reform Treaty, new Protocol and Article 14; reference to “*social market economy*”
- ✓ Current and upcoming EU legislation: energy, urban transport (in-house definition), public procurement, healthcare(?)
- ✓ Other initiatives: evaluation (HEPNI), quality standards (SSGI), Better Regulation, Social Reality, eGovernment, quality public finances

# EU developments regarding public services (2)

Future perspectives:

- ✓ Key EPSU objective: application of public services values and principles in practice
- ✓ Key problem: for the EU (and governments?) modernisation of public services / public sector = marketisation, with greater role of private (non-profit and profit-making sector)
- ✓ Follow-up to EPSU public services campaign and ETUC petition (ETUC SGI conference April 2008)
- ✓ Follow-up ETUI/EPSU/SALTSA conference 19/20 November 2007
- ✓ European Parliament elections 2009

# Outline of EPSU public services resolution 2009 (1)

(Re)state EPSU basic positions:

- ✓ Quality of life – quality public services  
Fundamental rights!
- ✓ EU Reform Treaty, i.e. new article 14, the protocol on public services and the fundamental rights charter + other EU-instruments?
- ✓ Public services (and public sector) part of European Social Model / social market economy / fair, cohesive, and sustainable democratic societies and regions
- ✓ Integrate European Social Model in external relations and neighbourhood policies
- ✓ Growth on the basis of Sustainable Development (productivity criteria/cost-benefit/public services as an investment)

# Outline of EPSU public services resolution 2009 (2)

(Re)state EPSU basic positions:

- ✓ Framework for quality public services = affordability, universality, democratic control, good governance, proximity, worker & citizen involvement
- ✓ employment in the public sector and meeting citizens' needs in the face of demographic change
- ✓ Funding and taxation (Stability and Growth pact)
- ✓ Prerequisites for quality public services: good employment conditions, social dialogue, adequate funding, quality standards, participation and evaluation

# Outline of EPSU public services resolution 2009 (3)

EPSU demands:

- ✓ Increase investment in public administrations and infrastructures
- ✓ Ensure fairer taxation and fairer distribution of wealth
- ✓ Transparency on the 'cost and failures' of 'non-public' alternatives to public services, value of good administration
- ✓ Improve regulation of, and strengthen trade union organisation in private (non-profit and profit-making) providers of public services
- ✓ Improve governance and democratic control, combat corruption in public services (capacity to change from within)
- ✓ Guarantee social role of public services
- ✓ Space for holistic, local level dimension (proximity) to public services against the background of (EU-wide) internal market (e.g. public procurement)

# Outline of EPSU public services resolution 2009 (4)

EPSU action points:

✓ .....to develop!

# Points for other resolutions

- ✓ Equal pay (“male wages for female jobs”)
- ✓ Pay in the public sector (purchasing power)
- ✓ Industrial relations (trade union rights/social dialogue)
- ✓ Migration
- ✓ Climate change
- ✓ Role of specific sectoral public services (e.g. health/social services)
- ✓ EPSU as a trade-union organisation (solidarity within EPSU, partnerships, alliances, campaigns)