



European Foundation
for the Improvement of
of Living and Working Conditions

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Programme

Seminar

“Working time and work-life balance: A policy dilemma?”

European Parliament, PHS 1A002, Brussels,
Tuesday, 17 October 2006, 9:00 – 12:30

- 8:45** **Registration**
- 9:15** **Welcome & opening**
- Tarja Filatov*, Finnish Minister of Labour
Alejandro Cercas, MEP
Jorma Karppinen, Director, European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions
- 9:30 – 12:15** **Presentations –Panels – Debates**
Moderation: *Harlem Desir*, MEP, Vice-president of the PSE group
- 9:30 **Working time and work-life balance in Europe? What can we learn from the European Foundation’s research?**
Stavroula Demetriades , Research Coordinator - Industrial relations, European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions
- 9:45 **Panel I:**
Models of working time in Europe: Policy options and practical limitations
Do EU policy-makers address the right issue regards working time, overseeing the major long-term changes?
How to improve work-life balance for employees through the reorganization of working time, social time, private time and related income over the life course?
Can part-time be a viable option for a good work-life balance?
What are the implications of certain working time options for work career, income and social security in later phases of the life course (part-time, parental leave, care leave etc)
Incidences of part-time and long working hours on working conditions.

How working time options might support policy objectives of the work-life debate (increase labour supply, equal opportunities, reduce welfare expenses, support lifelong learning and adaptation to change)?

Introduction: *Alejandro Cercas*, MEP

Speakers

- *Carola Fischbach-Pytte*, General Secretary - EPSU
- *Tina Weber*, CEEP Social Affairs Committee
- *Luigi Cocilovo*, MEP
- *Jean Lambert*, MEP
- *Colette Fagan*, Prof. Co-Director, European Work and Employment Research Centre (EWERC), University of Manchester

Debate with Members, speakers, Foundation's expert and participants

11:00

Panel II:

Combining flexicurity, competitiveness and an effective work-life balance: a win-win option?

Is more flexibility good for workers (e.g. increasing overall employment)?

Is more security good for companies (e.g. improving the productivity)?

What are the motives for flexibility for companies and for workers?

How to organize and regulate the dual flexibility agenda of workers and companies in Europe?

How to organize negotiated flexibility and what role for the legislator? What role for social partners?

Introduction : *Stephen Hughes*, MEP

Speakers

- *Catelene Passchier*, Confederal Secretary - ETUC
- *Renate Hornung-Draus*, Director, European and International Affairs, Bundesvereinigung der Deutschen Arbeitgeberverbände (BDA) – UNICE representative
- *José Silva Peneda*, MEP
- *Gabrielle Zimmer*, MEP
- *Prof. Dr. Peter Ester*, Institute for Labour Studies (OSA), The Netherlands

Debate with Members, speakers, Foundation's expert and participants

12:15

Conclusions and closing

Alejandro Cercas, MEP

Jorma Karppinen, Director, European Foundation

Tarja Filatov, Finnish Minister of Labour

Josep Borrell, President of the European Parliament