

* economic and technological developments: the re-arrangement of working time to address unemployment and under-employment as well as lifelong learning

* health and safety: the risks of flexibility, irregularity and unpredictability and how to prevent them

* the re-arrangement of working time: allowing for less detailed regulation, by promoting negotiated solutions, and enhancing the role of information and consultation

* changes in the workforce: enhancing individual choice within the framework of protective arrangements, and reconciling needs of male and female workers with the needs of enterprises

* demographic developments: a life course approach to shorter working hours and longer working lives

* increased mobility: the organisation of working time, travelling time, the environment and the role of civil society

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break

Second part of the day: Exchange of good practice examples: the role of trade unions as agents for innovative change

14.00 – 18.00 Presentation of 3 or 4 case studies

Questions from the floor

Tea-break

Presentation of 3 or 4 case studies

Questions from the floor

Round table with presenters of case studies

17.45 Closure of first day, practical announcements, etc.

Evening: reception by Gerry Sutcliffe,
Under Secretary of State for Employment Relations,
UK Department of Trade and Industry

Friday 18 November

First part of the day: Working time and the regulatory framework: which kind of regulatory framework is needed to support innovation of working time arrangements

- 9.00 – 12.30 Working time regulation and the promotion of negotiated flexibility: presentation of comparative data on the merits of various systems of working time regulation in the EU
- Working time regulation and the promotion of measures to improve work life balance
- Announcement of winner 'ETUC Challenging Times Award: award for the most innovative way of organising working time in good social partnership'
- Presentation of the award-winning case
- Questions from the floor
- State of play of the Revision of the Working Time Directive by the EP rapporteur, A. Cercas
- Questions from the floor
- 12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

Second part of the day: Follow up and future action and activity

- 14.00 – 16.00 European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, Spidla, on the EU commitment with regard to the regulation of working time, with link to Lisbon strategy and Green Paper on demographic change
- Round table and public debate with trade union leaders, employer's representatives and EU politicians on perspectives for a modern working time policy
- Presentation of ETUC 'timetable for action'
- 15.45 Concluding remarks and closure of conference