EU social partners in central governments agreed a joint contribution to the Commission consultation on fair minimum wages



TUNED | Trade Union's National and European Delegation

EUPAE | European Public Administration Employers

European Social Dialogue Committee for Central Government Administrations

SDC CGA contribution to the "First phase consultation of Social Partners under Article 154 TFEU on a possible action addressing the challenges related to fair minimum wages" (COM(2020) 83 final)

Introduction

Social partners in central governments welcome the Commission Consultation as an opportunity to implement, with EU social partners, principle 6 on wages of the European Pillar of Social Rights proclaimed by the Council, Parliament and the Commission, which reaffirms, amongst others, that workers have the right to fair wages and that transparency and predictability must guide wage setting according to national practices and in respect of social partners' autonomy.

We share these objectives and are committed to ensuring workers have a decent wage.

We recall in this regard the SDC CGA policy recommendations for a quality service in central government administration, 2015, which commit, amongst others, to "a remuneration policy that, despite budgetary constraints, provides a decent living and the motivation of personnel".

We expect to be fully consulted and involved in any initiatives that relate to collective bargaining and the regulation of the labour market.

EU social partners in central/federal governments, representing some 8 million employees, have agreed a joint contribution to the Commission's first phase consultation of Social Partners on a possible action related to fair minimum wages.

This follows a discussion with the European Commission on its Consultation at the Social Dialogue Committee meeting on 13 February last.

While not taking a position on a specific EU initiative, the unions led by EPSU and 18 central/federal governments in their capacity as employers welcome the Consultation as an opportunity to implement, with EU social partners, principle 6 on fair wages of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

They agree that the right to collective bargaining especially at sectoral level and

the autonomy of social partners are essential to achieve fairer wages and need to be promoted and respected.

After a decade of public sector cuts in wages, jobs and trade union rights, the contribution seeks to send a positive message towards better working and living conditions, shared economic prosperity, gender pay equality and sustainable funding of social protection systems across the EU

Text of the SDC CGA contribution to EC consultation is available here in EN

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