

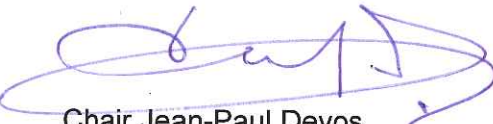
Effects of the crisis on the central government administrations

Statement by the European Social Dialogue Committee for the Central Government Administrations

1. The employers and trade unions, members of the European Social Dialogue Committee for the Central Government Administrations discussed the major effects of the international financial and economic crisis on its sector.
2. It was noted that in a majority of European countries, the administrations are subject to austerity measures affecting their global budgetary means, their workforce and/or its remunerations and that that can influence working conditions.
3. The Committee members want to stress the proven importance of the public sector in general and of the public administrations in particular, in the present difficult times, to strengthen, monitor and consolidate the sustainable recovery of our economies. Far from being a hindrance, an efficient public sector is an asset to support the government and the citizens in their joint efforts and a well-functioning private sector.
4. Therefore the Committee members consider that what brings them together is this conviction that central administrations are precisely at the service of citizens and that the attention to the users' needs and to their missions is essential.
5. They reaffirm that, being at the heart of the State, they have a particular responsibility in its good functioning, included in its fiscal sustainability.
6. They also reaffirm that what constitutes the administrations are the people who work in them and that if we don't place them at the heart, in every moment of the transformations we are going through, we are certain not to attain the objectives.
7. In the framework of such transformations, the recognition and promotion of social dialogue is essential and absolutely necessary, as well as the need to uphold public sector values of universal access, accountability, transparency, integrity and equal treatment.
8. As of 2012, the Committee intends to follow with attention the effects of the crisis on the functioning of Central Administrations and on the working conditions of the personnel.

Brussels, 31 December 2011,

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