



ASEM DIALOGUE FACILITY



ASEM Employment High Level Forum

CONCEPT PAPER

Full name of the event: ASEM Employment High Level Forum
Date: 29-31 March 2010
Location: Brussels
Venue: Hotel Crown Plaza, Brussels
Contact Person: Beata ZABOROWSKA, Beata.Zaborowska@ec.europa.eu

1. Introduction

The 2nd ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting in Bali on the 14th-15th October 2008 concluded that the 3rd ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting would be held in Europe in 2010.

The 3rd ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting (the 3rd ASEM LEMC) will take place in the Netherlands in December 2010.

The ASEM Employment High Level Forum will prepare the background and building blocks for this ministerial meeting. It will provide a discussion forum with the representatives of the ASEM governments in view to identify orientations for the discussions during the 3rd ASEM LEMC in the Netherlands. It will also provide input for the ASEM summit in October 2010 in Brussels.

Following the conclusions of the 2nd LEMC in Bali, the 2nd ASEM Social Partners Forum will be organised by the European Commission in Brussels to discuss the issues of interest of European, Asian and international social partners in view of the 3rd ASEM LEMC. The 2nd ASEM Social Partners Forum will be held prior to the ASEM Employment High Level Forum as a separate event (possibly allowing for the participation of government representatives at this meeting). Further a joint dinner is envisaged.

2. Main discussion topics

The ASEM Employment High Level Forum will discuss the global issues related to global employment and decent work agenda for all, taking into account the achievements of the ASEM dialogue on employment and social policies, as well as in view of preparation of the 3rd ASEM LEMC. Its outcomes will also feed into the 8th ASEM Summit on "Quality of Life" on the 4th and 5th October 2010 in Brussels.

The main focus will be on how to turn the current employment crisis into an opportunity for creating jobs and strengthening social development at the global level. Discussions will include such topics as decent work for all, CSR, skills development and matching them with labour market needs, social protection and social inclusion, occupational safety and health,

jobs potential stemming from transfer to low carbon economy and international migrations. Our dialogue will also have to be seen in the context of current discussions at multilateral level in the framework of G20, UN and ILO on employment and social impact of the economic and financial crisis.

3. Structure of the meeting

The ASEM Employment High Level Forum will be a 2-day event, organised by the European Commission, which will cooperate with the Netherlands, the host of the 3rd ASEM LEMC.

Participants will include: 1) representatives from each ASEM member Ministry of Labour and Employment and the ASEAN Secretariat, diplomats and representatives of respective missions to the EU; 2) representatives from the European Commission; and as appropriate for certain parts of the debate 3) experts and academics; 4) representatives of international organisations, including the ILO and the OECD.

The ASEM Employment High Level Forum will consist of introductory session that will set up the context for discussions, up to three working sessions on specific topics and concluding remarks. Senior Officials Meeting will be held at the end of the seminar. The building blocks for discussion at the 3rd ASEM LEMC will be prepared as the outcome of the meeting.

Further preparations to the 3rd ASEM LEMC will be possibly held in the margins of ILO conferences and meetings in Geneva in cooperation with the Netherlands.

The draft programme of the ASEM Employment High Level Forum will be provided to ASEM partners in December 2009.

The Concept Paper of the 3rd ASEM LEMC in December 2010 will be also provided to ASEM partners together with this Concept Paper.