



Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en
Werkgelegenheid



3rd ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers Conference in December 2010

CONCEPT PAPER

Full name of the event: 3rd ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers Conference
Date: December 2010
Location: Leiden, the Netherlands
Contact Person: Beata.Zaborowska@ec.europa.eu; rmoree@minszw.nl

Context

- Over the last few years the European Union and Asia has developed a very fruitful and promising dialogue in the area of employment and social affairs in the framework of ASEM process.
- This dialogue has been initiated by the first Labour and Employment Ministers Conference (1st ASEM LEMC) in Potsdam in 2006 under the German Presidency. It has been successfully continued and consolidated through the second Labour and Employment Ministers Conference (2nd ASEM LEMC) in Bali 13-15 October 2008 which resulted in adoption of the first ASEM joint declaration on employment and social affairs as well as decision concerning the development of practical cooperation projects in such areas as skills development, social protection, decent work, CSR and safety and health at work.
- The results of the 2nd ASEM LEMC meeting contributed to the outcome of the 7th ASEM Summit in Beijing 24-25 October 2008 in the form of the declaration on sustainable development.
- The ASEM CSR High Level Conference organised by Germany in Potsdam 16-17 March 2009 in the framework of CSR cooperation project has confirmed a strong interest of the EU Member States as well as the Asian partners in further development of the ASEM cooperation in the area of employment and social affairs.
- The ASEM conference on the harmonisation of competency standards organised by Indonesia in Bali on 18 and 19 November 2009, in the framework of discussion on skills development as part of the ASEM dialogue on employment issues.
- Job crisis would still be a concern in 2010 and the exit strategy from recovery measures would be a challenge.
- The EU will have just established in the 2nd half of 2010 its post 2010 Growth and Jobs and European Employment Strategy which will certainly contain a strong external dimension.

- ASEM members are taking part in the G20 process and the ILO. The Global Jobs Pact of the ILO is taken on board in the G20 conclusions. In April 2010 a G20 employment and labour ministers meeting will be held.
- The third ASEM Employment and Labour Ministers Meeting will take place in Europe in the second half of 2010, as agreed by both sides in Bali.

Focus-items

- The 3rd ASEM LEMC should build on the achievements of the ASEM dialogue in the employment and social area and look into the future.
- The main focus of the meeting will be how to turn the financial and economic crisis into an opportunity for creating jobs and strengthening social development at the global level as well as the path from the crisis to successful recovery that requires strong employment and social dimension. In this framework the results of practical cooperation projects agreed in 2008 will be discussed:
 - CSR (the issue-based leadership of Germany),
 - Decent work including social security (the issue-based leadership of France),
 - Occupational Safety and Health (the issue-based leadership of Singapore and Indonesia),
 - Skills and vocational training (the issue-based leadership of the Philippines).
- Exchange of opinions between the Asian and European countries and identification of issues of common interest in view of multilateral discussions in the framework of G20, UN, ILO and the OECD on employment and social policies, a.o The ILO Global Jobs Pact;
- The social partners in the area of social affairs and employment policy will play an appropriate role in the ASEM dialogue.
- Implementation of the conclusions of the 8th ASEM Summit on the 4th-5th October 2010 in Brussels on the employment and social aspects of quality of life.
- The aim will be also to identify future practical cooperation projects after 2010.

Location and timing

- 12, 13 and 14 December 2010, Leiden, the Netherlands (tbc).
- Two days event plus informal consultations with the social partners and dinner on the day that precedes the Ministerial meeting.

Process

In preparation to the 3rd ASEM LEMC the following events will be envisaged:

- ASEM Employment High Level Forum to be organised by the European Commission on 29-31st of March 2010 in Brussels. This event will provide a discussion forum with the representatives of ASEM governments in view to identify orientations for discussions during the 3rd ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers Conference in December 2010. The preparations for the Forum will start in December 2009. The building blocks for discussion of the 3rd ASEM LEMC in 2010 will be discussed during the ASEM Employment High Level Forum.
- 2nd ASEM Social Partners Forum to be organised by the European Commission in Brussels on the day preceding the ASEM Employment High Level Forum as a separate event. The two events will preferably be linked by a joint dinner and the governments officials will have a possibility to participate in the Social Partners Forum.
- A preparatory meeting of high officials that will meet en marge of the ILC in Geneva to prepare the conclusions of the Ministerial meeting.

Organisation

Host: Co-hosts: The Dutch Minister of Labour and Social Policy and the Commissioner for Employment, Social Policies and Inclusion.

Coordination between the host country and the future Spanish and Belgian Presidency to be ensured concerning, respectively, the ASEM Employment High Level Forum and the Ministerial Conference.

Invitees: ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers with accompanying delegations; representatives of international organisations (such as the ILO and the OECD) possibly invited as speakers.

Agenda of the Ministerial Meeting:

- Senior Officials Meeting to finalise the draft joint declaration on the day before the Ministerial Meeting (tbc)
- Informal consultations with the social partners will be organised before the Ministerial Meeting.
- Opening and closing sessions, and some working sessions on the main topics for discussion (tbc).

Output:

- Identification of an agreement with the ASEM partners on key areas of mutual interest;
- Exploration of the scope for future dialogue on employment and social issues and of possibilities for practical co-operation on appropriate employment and social policy related projects of mutual interest;

- Ministerial joint declaration to be adopted;
- Implementation of the conclusions from the 8th ASEM Summit on the 4-5th October 2010 in Brussels on employment and social policy aspects of "Quality of Life".
- Possible input for the first G20 meeting following the 3rd ASEM LEMC.