

## **Social Dialogue must be part of the Recovery**

Speech by Esther Lynch, Deputy General Secretary, ETUC  
Presidents, Prime Minister, Vice Presidents, Commissioner,  
Ministers, colleagues and Social Partners

Social Dialogue is and must be part of the solution to the crisis.

When tough decisions were needed to be taken social dialogue helped employers, Member States and the EU find legitimate, acceptable and agreed approaches.

But social dialogue's importance must not be limited to times of crisis.

Effective Social Dialogue is needed for a fair and sustainable recovery too.

The challenges we are facing requires that we start from the facts, the realities of the situation as it is. One concern is the trend **towards Superficial engagement with the social partners.**

Our examination has shown that when it comes to National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPS) the quality of involvement provided to the social partners is not what it needs to be. In too many countries national authorities present their priorities and plans but do not engage in a meaningful discussion aimed at finding consensus with the social partners. At EU level we sometimes face a similar struggle, depending on the DG concerned, the quality of engagement can fall below what is necessary, that is why the

ETUC and the EU employers social partners jointly called for a Social Dialogue Representative to be present in each DG. To ensure that social dialogue is baked into the decision making. This call was taken up by Mrs Nahles in her Report. There is no need to delay and every reason to advance on this recommendation.

This is the last TSS before we will begin our negotiations with the employers on our new Bi Partite Work Program. Our fourth coming work programme provides the opportunity for us to set out as social partners how we will contribute to achieve a fair and sustainable recovery. We need to play our part too. The trade union group is preparing our mandate, it will be BIG on ambition because the problems we are dealing with will be BIG.

We need to improve our way of handling crisis-forced restructuring. Working together is how we will ensure in the recovery that no sustainable company will close and that no job will be lost that can be saved.

The EU target of 60% of all adults participating in training every year needs a strong workplace dimension too, our work program can help by agreeing blueprints on workplace training and paid leave.

There is a crying need for a Europe wide approach to securing fair Telework. This is best approach by those who laid the foundations already in our 2002 Agreement and we hope the

employers will be available for negotiating an instrument that will be up to the challenges faced.