

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## DELEGATION FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

for relations with the  
UNITED STATES CONGRESS

New York and Washington D.C.

31 October - 4 November 1977

### Notice to Members

Please find attached a report on the future of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), published in 'Le Figaro' and 'Le Soir' on 26 and 24 September 1977 respectively.

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMITTEES  
AND INTER-PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

Annex

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24 October 1977



ANNEX

Mr Tindemans has sent a letter to the President of the United States on behalf of the nine member governments of the European Communities, calling attention to the latter's concern over the repercussions for the International Labour Organization of the United States' withdrawal on 25 November 1977, the date on which its two-year period of notice expires. 25% of the organization's budget is financed by the United States.

Mr Tindemans writes:

'The member governments of the European Communities have been profoundly disturbed by recent events within the ILO. We share the misgivings of the United States Government. Like it, we feel that certain moves at the ILO's annual conference in June 1977 were prejudicial to the Organization's interests. Particularly regrettable, in our view, was the conference's failure to adopt the report of the committee on the application of conventions. We are convinced that, if the activities of the ILO are to have any real and lasting success, the annual reports of this committee must be adopted and its recommendations heeded. It is our intention - and, we believe, the intention of many other member governments too, - to ensure that the main recommendations in this year's report, in particular with regard to the need for a uniform approach to the problems involved, are actively pursued within the organization.

The 1977 conference was all the more disappointing since, as we believe, the ILO has a fundamental and increasingly important role to play within the United Nations. In common with the World Conference on Employment, the ILO has a significant part to play in the efforts of the United Nations to find a solution to the crucial problems of North-South relations and international economic development.

Furthermore, it has a major contribution to make in the field of human rights, an area in which the results of its long-established procedures have to date been among the most effective achieved by any international organization. Finally, we regard the customary activities of the ILO - the only 'tripartite' international organization - in establishing international labour standards and improving working conditions throughout the world as being of permanent importance.

For all these reasons, we consider the ILO to be an organization which deserves our wholehearted support. Withdrawal by the United States would deal a severe blow, not only to the organization itself, but also to the UN as a whole, from which it would take a long time to recover. Neither the reforms we are seeking to implement nor the objectives we are jointly pursuing within the ILO can be achieved without US participation, even if the governments of the Nine were to persevere in their efforts to proclaim and enhance the valuable service rendered by the ILO to the international community'

The Canadian government has contacted the ILO's legal service to see whether a formula might be found which would enable Washington to extend its notice of withdrawal for another year.



