



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**SOC 48  
WTO 39  
COMPET 21**

**NOTE**

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from : Social Questions Working Party  
to : Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council (EPSCO)  
No. Cion prop. : 9824/04 SOC 269 WTO 62 COMPET 82  
Subject : Draft Council Conclusions on the Social Dimension of Globalisation

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Delegations will find attached the text of the draft Council Conclusions as agreed by the Social Questions Working Party at its meeting on 15 February 2005, including a contribution by the 133 Committee on trade aspects following the Committee's its meeting on 28 January 2005.

**Draft**

**Council Conclusions on the Social Dimension of Globalisation**

Having regard to the Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation, established by the International Labour Organisation, "A fair globalisation, creating opportunities for all" launched in February 2004;

Having regard to the Communication of the Commission "The Social Dimension of Globalisation - the EU policy contribution on extending the benefits to all"<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas the European Union is based on values of democracy, respect of human rights, equal opportunities and social justice;

Whereas the promotion of the external dimension of EU employment and social policy is an important component of its Social Policy Agenda;

Whereas, at the meeting of the European Council of 16-17 December 2004, the EU Heads of State and Government underlined the importance of strengthening the social dimension of globalisation in the light of the World Commission Report and the proposals of the Commission's Communication (§ 53 of the Presidency Conclusions);

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 9824/04 SOC 269 WTO 62 COMPET 82 - COM (2004) 383 final.

Whereas the international community welcomed the World Commission Report and expressed its support to a follow-up for this Report, in particular at the 289<sup>th</sup> and 291<sup>st</sup> sessions of the ILO Governing Body in March and November 2004, the 92<sup>nd</sup> session of the International Labour Conference in June 2004 and in the Resolution A/RES/59/57 adopted by the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly in December 2004.

The Council:

1. UNDERLINES that the process of globalisation has brought significant benefits to many people in the world but that these benefits are not shared equally across all countries and groups; NOTES the gender dimension of such inequality;
2. HIGHLIGHTS the need for an effective and transparent global governance of the process to prevent unbalanced outcomes and to promote sustainable development towards a fully inclusive and equitable globalisation;
3. HIGHLIGHTS that better management of globalisation calls for action by developed countries and by developing countries as well as by international organisations;
4. UNDERLINES that the EU must conduct its internal and external policies in a consistent way thus contributing to maximising the benefits and minimising the costs of globalisation for all groups and countries, both inside and outside of the EU;
5. RECALLS that the EU has gradually developed policies which have proved their worth, both at home and internationally, which seek to ensure that economic and social progress go hand in hand; HIGHLIGHTS in particular the relevance in this respect of the Lisbon strategy and its set of mutually reinforcing policies to promote competitiveness, employment, social cohesion and a sustainable environment, thus promoting greater policy coherence;

6. HIGHLIGHTS the importance of social partners' organisations and civil society organisations mobilising actors with a view to better addressing the social dimension of globalisation, both within and outside the EU;
7. EMPHASISES the role of the social partners in better managing the continuing process of restructuring driven by globalisation;
8. WELCOMES the interest of the World Commission in the EU model of development, and in particular the Lisbon strategy, which is based on integrated policies aiming at economic performance, investment in human capital and social cohesion, the quality of work, a high level of social protection and the role of the social dialogue;
9. HIGHLIGHTS the importance that the World Commission attaches to promoting regional integration across the world and to incorporating a social dimension in the process of regional integration;
10. RECALLS its commitment to promoting core labour standards and to improving social governance in the context of globalisation, including within the framework of its existing trade policies and initiatives, as emphasized by the Council Conclusions of 21 July 2003;
11. NOTES that the Doha Development Agenda offers a unique opportunity to contribute to social development goals by fostering growth, combating poverty, creating employment, and raising living standards; HIGHLIGHTS the need for social development aspects to be duly reflected in the EU's negotiation positions;
12. RECOGNISES the need for an integrated approach to trade policy and social development in particular the need to strengthen the sustainable development dimension of bilateral trade agreements and to continue to pursue the promotion of core labour standards in bilateral

agreements, accompanied by Sustainability Impact Assessments (SIAs) and assisted by appropriate donor support; NOTES the importance of the revision of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) in this context;

13. WELCOMES the efforts to promote corporate social responsibility, taking into account internationally agreed standards; ENCOURAGES the private sector to contribute to corporate social responsibility initiatives and tools that can be a powerful and complementary means of fostering fair globalisation;
14. EMPHASIZES the need to improve efficiency and transparency of labour markets and to promote decent work for all across the world in line with the ILO Decent Work Strategy as a means for achieving equitable, inclusive and sustainable development and eradicating poverty in the interests of economic and social progress; STRESSES the need to address migration issues within this framework;
15. STRESSES the need for increased efforts, by the EU and others, to ensure effective policy coherence between the international institutions; ENCOURAGES, in particular, the dialogue and cooperation between the World Trade Organisation, the Bretton Woods institutions and the International Labour Organisation aimed at promoting decent work for all;
16. ENCOURAGES all other international organisations to cooperate towards promoting decent work for all as a useful means of ensuring that there is coherence with regard to fostering economic growth, employment and social governance in the context of globalisation;
17. UNDERLINES the importance of promoting decent work for all in EU relations and co-operation programs with third countries and regions;

18. SUPPORTS the incorporation of the promotion of decent work as a global goal to be considered within the comprehensive review of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals to be undertaken in 2005;
  19. STRESSES the importance of the World Commission Report for the ongoing work at international level on social issues, in particular the follow-up to the World Summit on Social Development , the Fourth World Conference on Women Rights, and the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations;
  20. INVITES the Commission to report on a regular basis on the follow-up of such ongoing work.
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