The future of employee involvement in Czech corporate governance

co-organisers: European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), Českomoravská konfederace odborových svazu (ČMKOS)

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Hotel Grand Majestic Plaza, Truhlářská 16, Praha

Good corporate governance is one of the key elements ensuring that companies survive and thrive in a sustainable way. Employees play a crucial role in this respect and their involvement in companies’ decision-making processes is a core component of the European model. Not less than 17 of the 27 EU member States grant employees with the right to be represented on boardrooms, Czech Republic being, at present, part of the most advanced countries. Employee participation at board level is also to be found in EU company law through negotiated and tailor-made arrangements aimed at securing pre-existing rights in cases of cross-border mergers, establishment of a European Cooperative Society or, most commonly, of a European Company (Societas Europaea – SE).

However, recent developments in Czech Republic seem to question rights to workers’ involvement:
- The revised Companies Act, said to enter into force January 1, 2014 merely abolishes the obligation for companies to include employee representatives in their supervisory board,
- The success of SEs (Czech Republic being the European ‘top host country’) goes along with an absence of employee participation rights which would have otherwise applied if companies had remained national.

What are the consequences for the Czech social and economic model? What are the implications for the future? Experts in company law and labour law as well as panellists will exchange on these issues.

Agenda

17:00 Welcome and introduction
   Aline Conchon, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)

17:15 Board-level employee representation rights in Czech corporate governance: Abolished by January 2014?
   Jaroslav Stránský, Legal department, Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions (ČMKOS)

17:30 Employee involvement in Czech European Companies (SE)
   Jan Lasák, Kocián Solc Balaštík, attorneys-at-law / Faculty of Law, Masaryk University

18:00 Panel discussion: Is there a future for employee involvement in Czech Corporate Governance?
   Moderator: Jan Cremers, Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies (AIAS)
   Vit Samek, Legal department, Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions (ČMKOS)
   Claudia Menne, Confederal Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
   Jiří Podhajský, Legal department, Czech Metalworkers’ Federation KOVO (OS KOVO)

19:00 Close of discussion and reception

CZ/EN interpretation will be available

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