EU Pillar of Social Rights: the mirage of a social Europe?

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What is the European Pillar of Social Rights?

• A stated objective of the Juncker Commission – ‘social market economy’

• Consultation launched 8 March to run until the end of 2016

• Primarily 2 documents: a communication and an annex

• Culminating in a ‘European conference’ organised by the Commission
Key points from a trade union perspective

• This could be the beginning of the ‘Social Europe’ that we have been demanding for many years

• An strategic opportunity for ETUC to develop our own vision and capacity utilising the knowledge, skills and experience of key affiliates and the ETUI

• A way to build confidence in EU by showing that the EU can respond to needs of workers, their families and communities
Our approach

“A social pillar of rights built on decent work principles”

Chapter 1
Equal opportunities and access to the labour market

Chapter 2
Fair working conditions

Chapter 3
Adequate and sustainable social protection

Social dialogue, collective bargaining and involvement of workers
The consultation – state of play

• High-level meeting already taken place on 11 April in which several gains were achieved in relation to the process;
• A lot of moving parts - three streams of consultation across three chapters of content:
June: Dedicated Hearing 1
September: Dedicated Hearing 2
November: Dedicated Hearing 3

Exploratory dedicated hearings
Agreement-seeking social dialogue

Technical/advisory working groups
Smaller working groups on specific issues

11 April: High level consultation
Optional ongoing high level consultation
Optional ongoing high level consultation

November European conference

June: Standing social dialogue committee
September: Standing social dialogue committee
Plus: An additional social dialogue committee offered
HEADLINE DEMANDS

• Rebalance social rights and economic freedoms
• EU not just Eurozone
• Improve existing rights by removing exclusions, closing loopholes, cover all ‘workers’
• No to ‘flexibility’
• New Rights
• No to SME being treated differently for H&S
• Citizenship
• Promote collective bargaining as solution and method to achieve outcomes
• Social Protection as a productive factor
THANK YOU