Working together for youth employment -
From education to the workplace: a global challenge

Joint seminar of EU Agencies Cedefop, EU-OSHA, ETF, Eurofound
hosted by the European Parliament

30 June 2011 - 9:00-12:30
European Parliament – Room: JAN 6Q2 - Brussels

Programme

08:15 Registration of participants

9:00-9:20 WELCOME AND OPENING
Pervenche Berès, Chair of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee
Juan Menéndez-Valdés, Director, Eurofound – on behalf of agencies’ directors

9:20-10:10 THEMATIC SESSION

Young workers in Europe have been facing since a long time many difficulties in accessing the labour market and in particular finding a quality and secure employment, which should allow them to start a decent and independent life. Moreover, the financial and economic crisis has worsened their employment prospects significantly. Close attention is given by policy makers in Europe to the link between youth unemployment and social exclusion and its long-term destabilizing effects on society at large. Across Europe, specific initiatives by governments or social partners have been implemented such as developing work opportunities or policies aimed at increasing young people’s employability and entry to the labour markets. However, some groups of young people are particularly disadvantaged: those who have experienced lengthy period of unemployment, young people with low levels of qualifications and educational achievement, those with health problems or disabilities, those from minority ethnic groups as well as young migrant workers.
Against this background, the EU agencies under the remit of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, present a multi-dimensional perspective of youth employment-related challenges today in Europe and its neighbourhood. Agencies’ complementary research findings presentations focus on smooth transition from education to workplace, lifelong guidance for young people at risk, labour market participation of young, working conditions and safe and quality jobs for young workers, the NEETs (not in employment, education or training) phenomenon in Europe and its economic and social costs, the active inclusion of disadvantaged young and the global/international dimension of youth unemployment. These contributions set the platform for the panel discussion with EU policy makers and participants.

Chairperson: Pervenche Berès, Chair of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee

What does it take to become employable? Guiding young people into the labour market
Pascaline Descy, Head of Research and Policy Analysis, Cedefop

‘No work in sight?’ The role of governments and social partners in fostering labour market inclusion of young people
Massimiliano Mascherini, Research manager, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions – Eurofound

“Safe start” – Occupational safety and health from school to work: Findings and recommendations
Sarah Copsey, Project manager, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work - EU-OSHA

The global dimension of youth employment with special focus on northern Africa
Anastasia Fetsi, Head of Thematic Expertise Department, European Training Foundation, ETF

10:10-10:25 KEYNOTE SPEECH
Educating young people for tomorrow’s jobs
Jan Truszczynski, Director General, Directorate-General for Education and Culture, European Commission
10:25-11:50  PANEL DISCUSSION
‘Securing Youth Employment in Europe and Abroad - The Way Ahead’

Moderator: Emilie Turunen, Member of the European Parliament

Agencies’ representatives:
Christian Lettmayr, Acting director, Cedefop
Juan Menéndez-Valdés, Director, Eurofound
Madlen Serban, Director, ETF
Jukka Takala, Director, EU-OSHA

Panellists
Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Member of the European Parliament
Marian Harkin, Member of the European Parliament
Raymond Maes, Acting Head of Unit - Youth Employment, Entrepreneurship, Micro-Finances – Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
Pierre Mairesse, Director for Lifelong learning, horizontal policy issues and EU 2020 strategy, Directorate General for Education and Culture
Steven D'Haeseleer, Social Affairs Director, BusinessEurope
Juliane Bir, Youth Officer and ETUC advisor on Social Dialogue, ETUC
Luca Scarpiello, Vice-President, European Youth Forum

Panel discussion followed by an open exchange with participants

11:50-12:10  Special addresses
Saïd Aïdi, Minister of Vocational Training and Employment, Tunisia
Ahmad Hassan El Borai, Minister of Manpower and Migration, Egypt

12:10-12:25  CLOSING ADDRESS
László Andor – Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (tbc)

12:25-12:30  CONCLUSION AND CLOSING
Pervenche Berès, Chair of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee

12:30-13:30  Reception