



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

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PRESS RELEASE

MEUSAC Sectoral Committees set to start meeting this week

By means of the Sectoral Committees and the Core Group, MEUSAC is managing a consultation process that attempts to engage the social partners as well as civil society in the formulation of EU legislation. As part of this process MEUSAC established nine Sectoral Committees composed of representatives of government and of the member organisations of the Core Group, as well as of civil society organisations having an interest in the areas covered by that particular Committee.

Last month the first updates with EU legislative proposals and other relevant information were sent out to members of the Sectoral Committees. A number of representatives have already indicated items which could be discussed at a Sectoral Committee meeting. The first Committees set to meet this week are the Employment, Social Policy and Health Committee on March 12th and the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Committee on March 13th.

The Employment, Social Policy and Health Committee will be discussing the Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health and the Consultation Paper on EU action to reduce health inequalities. The Green Paper highlights a number of challenges facing health systems in Europe of which a higher expenditure and training of staff which stem from the introduction of new technology as well as new and re-emerging threats to health. The Consultation Paper



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precedes a proposal by the European Commission for a Communication on reducing health inequalities in the EU such as those related to differences in life expectancy between women and men which may result in new threats and problems to the healthcare sector, as well as different types of diseases or medical conditions which stem from different lifestyles and level of education.

The Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Committee will be discussing the Communication from the Commission on Strategic goals and recommendations for the EU's maritime transport policy until 2018. The Communication, which has also been discussed during the last Core Group meeting, focuses on the need to ensure the sustainability and competitiveness of the EU maritime transport system and its contribution to the recovery of the world economy. Some of the main strategic goals for the European maritime transport system are to improve working and living conditions on board ships, safety at sea, maritime security and surveillance and the importance of working together on the international scene.

The Sectoral Committees widely shadow the EU Council formations: General Affairs; Economic and Financial Affairs; Justice and Home Affairs; the Environment; Employment, Social Policy and Health; Competitiveness and Consumer Affairs; Transport, Telecommunications and Energy; Agriculture and Fisheries; and Education, Culture and Youth; and provide a forum for the analysis of legislative proposals, discussion among parties and the gathering of reactions for the use of relevant public officials.



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The other Committees will be meeting as follows:

March 18 th	General Affairs
March 20 th	Competitiveness and Consumer Affairs
March 26 th	Economic and Financial Affairs
April 2 nd	Environment
April 3 rd	Education, Youth and Culture
April 8 th	Justice and Home Affairs
April 9 th	Agriculture and Fisheries

Members of the Sectoral Committees are currently in the process of selecting three representatives of Civil Society who will be representing them during Core Group meetings. Election date is set for the 20th March.

MEUSAC – 10.03.2009



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STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA

Il-Kumitati Settorjali tal-MEUSAC jibdew jiltaqgħu din il- gimgha

Il-MEUSAC qiegħed jikkoordina l-proċess ta' konsultazzjoni dwar il-leġislazzjoni tal-Unjoni Ewropea mal-imsieħba soċjali u s-soċjetà ċivili permezz ta' *Core Group* u disa' Kumitati Settorjali. Kull Kumitat huwa magħmul minn rappreżentanti tal-Gvern u membri tal-*Core Group*, kif ukoll organizzazzjonijiet tas-soċjetà ċivili li joperaw fil-qasam li jkunu qegħdin jirrapreżentaw fil-Kumitati partikolari.

Ix-xahar li għadda l-ewwel aġġornamenti dwar proposti leġislattivi tal-Unjoni Ewropea ntbagħtu lill-membri tal-Kumitati Settorjali. Numru sostanzjali ta' rappreżentanti diġà għaddew is-suggerimenti tagħhom lit-Taqsima tal-Konsultazzjoni fi hdan il-MEUSAC dwar dak li jista' jiġi diskuss fi hdan il-Kumitati Settorjali. L-ewwel żewġ kumitati se jiltaqgħu din il-gimgha: dak tal-Impjiegi, Politika Soċjali u Saħħa se jiltaqa' nhar il-Ħamis 12 ta' Marzu u dak tat-Trasport, Telekomunikazzjoni u Energija se jiltaqa' nhar il-Ġimgha 13 ta' Marzu.

Il-Kumitat dwar l-Impjeg, il-Politika Soċjali u s-Saħħa se jkun qed jiddiskuti il-*Green Paper* dwar l-Impjegati Ewropej fil-qasam tas-Saħħa u l-Karta ta' Konsultazzjoni dwar azzjoni Ewropea biex titnaqqas l-inugwaljanza fl-istess qasam. Il-*Green Paper* tiġbed l-attenzjoni fuq



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numru ta' sfidi li qed jiffaċċjaw is-sistemi tas-saħħa fl-Ewropa, b'mod partikolari l-ispiża għolja u t-taħriġ tal-impjegati sforz l-introduzzjoni ta' teknoloġija ġdida kif ukoll theddid kontra s-saħħa pubblika. Il-Karta ta' Konsultazzjoni tippreċiedi proposta tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea għal Komunikazzjoni biex titnaqqas l-inugwaljanza fil-qasam tas-saħħa fl-UE, bħal fil-każ ta' differenzi fit-tul mistenni tal-ħajja bejn in-nisa u l-irġiel u li jistgħu jkunu riżultat ta' theddid ġdid jew problemi fis-settur tas-saħħa, kif ukoll tipi differenti ta' mard u kundizzjonijiet ta' saħħa minħabba stili ta' ħajja u livell ta' edukazzjoni differenti.

Il-Kumitat tat-Trasport, Telekomunikazzjoni u Energija se jiddiskuti l-Komunikazzjoni mill-Kummissjoni Ewropea dwar il-Miri strateġiċi u r-rakkomandazzjonijiet għall-politika tat-trasport marittimu tal-UE sal-2018. Din il-Komunikazzjoni diġà giet diskussa fl-aħħar laqgħa tal-*Core Group*. Permezz ta' din il-Komunikazzjoni, il-Kummissjoni qed tiffoka fuq il-bżonn li jkunu żgurati s-sostennibiltà u l-kompetittività tas-sistema tat-trasport marittimu tal-UE u tkun imħarsa l-importanza tal-kontribuzzjoni li dan is-settur jista' jkollu għat-titjib tal-ekonomija dinjija. Xi wħud mill-għanijiet strateġiċi huma li jkun hemm titjib fil-kundizzjonijiet tal-ħaddiema abbord il-vapuri, is-sigurtà fuq il-baħar u l-importanza li l-UE taħdem id f'id ma' organizzazzjonijiet oħra fix-xena internazzjonali f'dan is-settur.

Il-kompozizzjoni tal-Kumitati tixbaħ lil dik tal-Kunsill tal-Unjoni Ewropea: Affarijiet Ġenerali; Affarijiet Ekonomiċi u Finanzjarji; Ġustizzja u Affarijiet Interni; Impjiegi, Politika Soċjali u Saħħa; Kompetittività u Affarijiet tal-Konsumatur; Trasport, Telekomunikazzjoni u Energija; Agrikoltura u Sajd; Ambjent; Edukazzjoni, Żgħażaġh u Kultura. Il-Kumitati jagħtu spazju għall-forum li janalizza l-proposti legiżlattivi, jqajjem diskussjoni bejn il-partijiet ikkonċernati u jiġbor reazzjonijiet għall-użu ta' uffiċjali pubbliċi rilevanti.



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Il-Kumitati l-oħra se jiltaqghu kif ġej:

- 18 ta' Marzu Affarijiet Ġenerali
- 20 ta' Marzu Kompetittività u Affarijiet tal-Konsumatur
- 26 ta' Marzu Affarijiet Ekonomiċi u Finanzjarji
- 2 ta' April Ambjent
- 3 ta' April Edukazzjoni, Żgħażaġh u Kultura
- 8 ta' April Ġustizzja u Affarijiet Interni
- 9 ta' April Agrikoltura u Sajd

Il-membri tal-Kumitati Settorjali bhalissa qegħdin fil-proċess li jagħzlu tliet rappreżentanti tas-soċjetà ċivili biex jirrapreżentawhom fi hdan il-*Core Group*. L-elezzjoni se ssir nhar il-Ġimgħa 20 ta' Marzu.

MEUSAC – 10.03.2009