

**European social partners joint conference on skills needs in
greening economies - 10.10.2013**

SPEAKING POINTS – FERNANDO VASQUEZ

1. WHY

- **Europe 2020, Employment package and accompanying SWD –**
- **Acknowledge the potential for green jobs – how many have been created in the last years, how many could be added by 2020 and 2030?**
- **Recognise that green jobs should not be associated only to low-carbon sectors or the eco-industries, although acknowledging the strong job creation potential of eco-industries. Construction or manufacturing for example are not by default green sectors, but these are sectors with a lot of green jobs or jobs increasingly requiring sets of green skills.**
- **Emphasise the need for greening jobs and skills throughout the economy as it shifts to a greener, resource efficient and low-carbon model. On the other hand, greening skills is part of the factors enabling the development of the green economy.**
- **Lots of initiatives at EU and MS level to promote green economy/low-carbon/resource efficient transformation, but jobs and skills aspects are not always visible.**
- **The jobs created through the greening of the economy tend to be “proximity” based (they are not easily delocalised)**
- **Thus, the need for a joint robust initiative promoting a green economy and mobilising key stakeholders at the EU and MS levels. This is essential for addressing current gaps and future green skill needs and to ensure that the job creation potential of the transition to a low-carbon and resource –efficient economy is fully exploited**

2. Mainstreaming green jobs creation and transformations due to energy and resource efficiency into National Job Plans

- **Emphasising in the European Semester the employment dimension of energy and resource efficiency and of the renewable energy generation**
- **What are the barriers to overcome (e.g. insufficient labour mobility and lack of skills) and what are the policy responses that can facilitate the restructuring of the economy.**
- **Point out the financial tools that can be used to promote green jobs (Structural funds, EIB/EIF, environmental taxes, revenues from auctioning of allowances, financial instruments, fiscal tools such as tax shift – do not tax jobs, but resource use);**
- **Encouraging Member States to promote green procurement at every level that will boost the markets for energy and resource efficiency and development of green skills and jobs.**
- **Encouraging Member States to promote the green public investments, together with job quality-related requirements in order to ensure that green jobs are also decent/good jobs.**
- **Encouraging Member States to address labour relocation and retraining needs through anticipation, active labour market policies and LLL.**

3. Promote greater use of EU financial instruments for smart green investments and to facilitate the restructuring challenge

- Mention the **20% Climate mainstreaming target** and especially the role of the ESF in this respect.
- Encouraging Member States to address in **ESF- and EGF-** supported programmes for 2014-2020 the needs for **green training and PES' capacity to assist in green labour market transitions.**
- Encouraging **exchange of experience with Member States in setting up national investment instruments** to ensure that investments are not limited to EU financial instruments only.
- Encouraging **concentration of ERDF resources on green jobs creation and transitions due to energy and resource efficiency, renewables and waste management investments.**
- **Engaging with the EIB to boost further the capacity to lend to public and private ventures**

4. Build and strengthen partnerships between labour market actors

- Producing **guidance to develop effective partnerships to make best use of training capacities.**
- Promote **socially responsible restructuring and job quality of the created and transformed green jobs through anticipating and managing new risks for health and safety at work and the impact of greening on the working conditions.** The greening of jobs should act as a catalyst to accelerate and support the transition process towards a green economy, to make it happen and exploit its full potential.
- **Working with the European Social Partners (mainly through European Sectorial Social Dialogue Committees, European Sectorial Skills Councils and SPs' work programmes)** on promoting the shift to energy and resource efficient economy
- Establishing of an **Expert Group** to issue a report on: **(1) Construction, (2) Recycling and waste management (3) clear water and air, (4) eco-design and (5) Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply** to work on the fulfilment of the objectives above **(skills, economic transition and worker adaptability)..**
- The Commission will identify **further priority sectors for greening jobs and skills** where the Expert group can come forward with specific recommendations.
- Promoting **support for SMEs networks that facilitate green change**, such as forums on sustainability, skills councils or green oriented sectoral training funds through EaSI.

5. Strengthen green skills intelligence and their further professionalisation

- **Streamlining and coordinating efforts dedicated to improvement of statistics on green jobs**, in order to be able to measure progress, capturing not only developments in eco sectors, but also the green transformation of skills and jobs within other sectors.
- Focusing on skills development with the objective of creating a **detailed mapping of existing and anticipated green skills gaps**.
- **Producing guidance on the development of methodologies to anticipate and forecast future skill needs**. This would allow developing informed policy interventions in education, training and recruitment to better match demand and supply of green jobs, while offering long-term job perspectives for workers.
- Ensuring that **EU-level skills anticipation instruments (EU Skills Panorama, ESCO, CEDEFOP and EUROFOUND surveys etc.) cover emerging green skills needs**.
- Promoting **further uptake of standardised skills certification schemes** through the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme in 2013/2014.
- **Promoting SME consultancy and advisory services to help SMEs** become more resource efficient and to uptake of environmental management standards (e.g. EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) or ISO 14001).

6. Summary of concrete steps