How are national social partners addressing the issue of climate change and the impact on employment?

CASE STUDY: BELGIUM

Anne Defourny, VBO-FEB Bert De Wel, ACV-CSC

Overview

- 1. Formal government consultation processes:
 - a) Central Business Council and National Labour Council on Green Jobs
 - b) Federal Council for Sustainable
 Development on the Climate Conference
 in Copenhagen
 - c) and on the CO₂ Price Signal
- 2. Ecocheques, a measure developed unilaterally among social partners
- 3. Some specific climate related initiatives of the social partners

Federal Council for Sustainable Development FRDO-CFDD

trade unions & employers federations & consumers & NGO's

Nov 2009

Joint statement:

on the climate conference in Copenhagen

March 2010

Joint statement:

on CO₂ price signal

2008

2009

2010

...oct...dec... jan.. march ... may...july...sept...nov...jan...march...may...

Oct 2008

Request for joint

statement on Green Jobs:

Minister for Employment and Equal Opportunity

July 2009:

1st joint statement on Green jobs:

- -State of affairs
- -Topics to be discussed

March 2010:

2nd joint statement

on Green jobs:

- Consensual views over the topics

Central Business Council and National Labour Council CRB-CCE/NAR-CNT

trade unions & employers federations

1a. Central Business Council and National Labour Council



Consensus opinion on green jobs:

- Concept difficult to define (narrow and broad definition)
- Lack of data for Belgium : SWOT analysis needed
- Transition to a low carbon economy
 - Ambitious challenge and profound modification of the economy (like information society)
 - Risks must be neutralized
 - Opportunities for economic growth and jobs must be seized
 - Shared responsability
 - Public authorities: right framework conditions
 - Social partners: competitiveness of our companies and fair transition



- Important role of the promotion of innovation,
 R&D, entrepreneuship, partnerships, standards,
 tools aiming to change behaviours
- Education and training
 - New skills and new qualifications will be needed
 - Improvement of the match between demand and supply on the labour market
 - Anticipation of skills need to be developped

1b. Federal Council for Sustainable development



Consensus opinion on the Copenhagen climate summit

- Climate negotiations objective.
- Competitiveness of our companies.
- A fair transition enabling workers to have a decent job and income.
- Principle that if the reduction of emissions
 within Belgium is less costly than the reduction
 through flexibility mechanisms, domestic
 measures should be taken.

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2009

1c. Federal Council for Sustainable Development:

Consensus opinion on the CO₂ Price Signal (CO₂ tax)

- Need for an appropriate policy mix to achieve the objective pursued.
- Strengthen the competitiveness of the Belgian economy which ensures employment and added value.
- Encourage research and innovation.
- Contribute to a fair transition by strengthening social cohesion.
- Should fit in an environmental program, rather than within a budget program.

2. National Labour Council:

Ecocheques

- A unilaterally measure of social partners.
- Collective Industrial Agreements nr. 98, part of the Inter-professional agreement 2009-2010.
- Tax-free bonus of 250 euro (2010) for employees to buy certain environmental goods and services (energy saving products, ecolabel products,...).
- The direct employment impact is probably very limited.

3. Specific climate related initiatives of the social partners

FEB: Promotion of Belgian eco-business abroad



Belgian eco-business makes a significant contribution to global environmental and climate challenges, and offers solutions that anticipate the expectations of local governments, residents and business



Renewable energy:

From bold projects to original products



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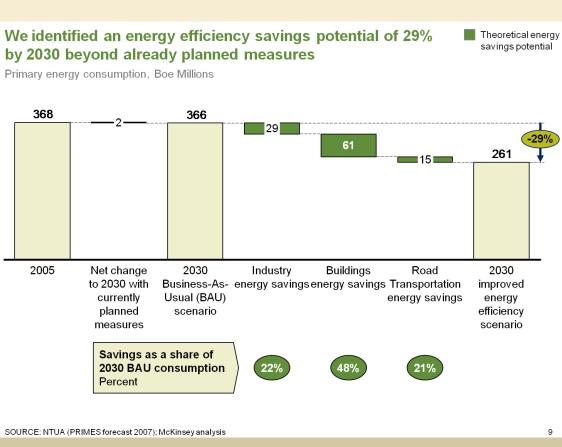
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FEB: Forum on energy efficiency

- McKinsey report: Energy efficiency saving potential of 29%
- making Belgium one of the most efficient future economy in terms of energy
- www.energyefficiency.be





Trade Unions

- RISE and BRISE a joint network of trade unions on environment information for trade union representatives in the Walloon and Brussels region. => www.rise.be
 There is a similar project in Flanders.
- Arbeid en Milieu joint organisation of trade unions with an environmental organisation
 => www.a-m.be
- Climate Coalition: mobilisation network of environment and social organisations (Greenpeace, WWF, trade unions, etc.).

More information:

Anne Defourny VBO-FEB ad@vbo-feb.be

Bert De Wel ACV-CSC BDeWel@acv-csc.be