

2nf Round table: setting of the national and EU agenda

How do you assess the link between the national and EU social dialogue?

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EU social dialogue – what increases its value-added at national level?

- EU level social dialogue is an extremely valuable tool and it must be continued. It is important that
 - EU SD contributes to flexible and well-functioning labour markets
 - EU SD is focused on relevant issues
 - EU SD takes into account and respects the features of national industrial relations systems -> choice of instruments is important
 - EU SD must not produce results that prevent or slow down the promotion of national social dialogue priorities at national level.
 - Appropriate reporting procedures on the implementation – heavy reporting burdens should be avoided



EK's topical labour market priorities – two examples

Forthcoming negotiations between central labour market organisations in Finland:

1. Reform of earnings-related pensions
 - The central labour market organisations shall negotiate a settlement for the pension reform (prolonging working careers) by autumn 2014
 - The reform would enter into force on 1 January 2017 at the latest
2. Reform of the bargaining system
 - A working group to assess the effectiveness and need for reform of the current system based on the Collective Agreements Act (1946) and the Act on Mediation on Labour Disputes (1962)
- **These are issues that must be dealt with at national level** but e.g. as regards pensions it is welcome that the Commission has been drawing attention to the necessity align the minimal statutory retirement age with increased life expectancy → the EU social partner declaration on economic governance has a link to the national discussions



Example of implementation at national level – Autonomous Framework Agreement on work-related stress

- In Finland implementation within the existing legal framework by means of a Recommendation adopted by the central level labour market organisations
 - It follows the content of the AFA
 - Responsibilities and the actions to be taken are “embedded” in the national legislation, principles and practices concerning working life and health and safety at work
- In addition a “Road Show” was organised
- EK is very satisfied with this method of implementation