

WEC-Europe/UNI-Europa pan-European Conference

«Online talent platforms, labour market intermediaries and the changing world of work»

16th May 2018, closing remarks Sebastien Delfosse

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for having attended today's pan-European conference on "Online talent platforms, labour market intermediaries and the changing world of work". The WEC-Europe President Bettina Schaller mentioned in her introductory remarks both the WEC Manifesto as well as some proposals linked to the discussions of today that are still very much under discussion at EU level.

Such as the Commission proposal for a **Directive on transparent and predictable working conditions** and the **proposal for a Council Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and self-employed**. Vesa Vanhanen from DG GROW referred to the **Commission initiative on online platforms issued just a few weeks ago, focusing on increased transparency, dispute resolution and the setting up of an EU observatory to monitor the impact of the new rules.**

- The presentations today have shown that the research report launched is at the heart of these debates.
- Correct classification, appropriate regulation and labour market policies are at the essential to a well-functioning online talent economy.
- We have also seen throughout the project that the online talent platform economy and temporary agency work are not two separate species, on the contrary we see increasing overlap and interconnection between the online and the offline work when it comes labour market intermediation.

Joint Recommendations (only to be mentioned if joint recommendations are adopted on 15th of May 2018)

- As sectoral social partners for temporary agency work, we have come up with a set of joint recommendations, addressed to policy makers, labour market intermediaries (online platforms and temporary work agencies) as well as to the academic world.
- We hope that our research report and our joint recommendations, focusing for example more on modernising social protection schemes and creating new safety nets based on transferable and portable rights will contribute to related debates on online talent platforms at European and national level.

EU Sectoral Social Dialogue on temporary agency work

Having just recently been elected as new chair of the employers' delegation of the European sectoral social dialogue on temporary agency work, it is my intention to continue these discussions with UNI-Europa on the changing world of work and the role of our industry.

As employers, we see three main dimensions on which we aim to put a focus on in our next Social Dialogue Work Programme:

- **EU labour law and regulation covering temporary agency work**, such as the Directive on transparent and predictable working conditions, which we addressed several time directly or indirectly today
- **EU employment policies, such as policies on skills enhancement**, training, career transitions and the cooperation between public and private employment services
- **The role of social dialogue, social partners and collective bargaining in the temporary agency work sector**

Next joint project on social innovation and portable rights

A theme that touches on many of these three dimensions is the topic of our planned, **next joint project, which will focus on social innovation and approaches to secure transferable and portable rights for workers in a changing world of work:**

- Taking account of the changing world of work, in which workers are confronted with an increasing number of career transitions.
- The theme of this project builds on the joint work done jointly by UNI-Europa and the World Employment Confederation-Europe.
- It will contribute to current and future debates on modernising social protection schemes and building new safety nets on the labour market. Activities of the bipartite funds for training, social benefits and pensions established in the agency work industry will certainly be of key interest in the context of this new project.
- We intent to launch this project, if funding can be secured, in 2019 in order to present results in early 2020.
- This will be at a time when the next European Commission and the new European Parliament will have taken office and EU policymakers will discuss the new EU Employment Strategy post Europe 2020.
- We hope many of you will be contributing to these debates and look forward to see you again.

Before closing this pan-European Conference, a special word of thanks

- To the interpreters, who made this day possible
- To our CEPS/IZA research team, who provide the thematic input based on a comprehensive research report
- The steering committee members of UNI-Europa and WEC-Europe and of course
- And lastly to the European Commission for the financial support provided to conduct the project

Thank you very much for attending, looking forward to see you again soon!