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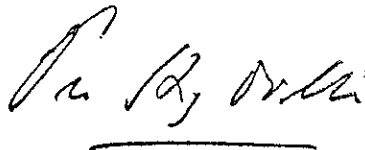
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Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges Beskæftigelses- og Socialministeriets notat om det britiske EU-formandskabsprogram på beskæftigelses- og socialområdet.


P. H. Olsen



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Det britiske EU-formandskabsprogram på beskæftigelses- og socialområdet

Sag nr. 7111-0006

Det overordnede tema

Det britiske EU-formandskabs overordnede tema på beskæftigelses- og socialområdet er, hvordan vi kan forøge beskæftigelsen og forbedre den sociale inklusion som led i gennemførelsen af den reviderede Lissabon-strategi.

Temaet skal signalere, at øget beskæftigelse er den mest effektive vej til en forbedret sociale beskyttelse – helt i overensstemmelse med Tony Blairs tale til Europa-Parlamentet den 23. juni d.å., hvor han slog til lyd for en modernisering af Europas sociale model. Temaet blev slået an på det uformelle ministermøde den 7.-9. juli d.å. i Belfast og vil gå igen på flere konferencer/møder under formandskabet (vedlagt kopi af listen over konferencer/møder).

De enkelte sager

For så vidt angår de sager, som optræder på den foreløbige dagsorden for rådsmødet den 8.-9. december (kopi vedlagt), som forventes at blive det eneste rådsmøde på beskæftigelses- og socialområdet under britisk formandskab, kan følgende elementer fremhæves:

Forslag til et fællesskabsprogram for beskæftigelse og social solidaritet ("Progress")

Muligt punkt på dagsordenen for rådsmødet til politisk enighed. Eneste udestående i sagen er beløbsstørrelser og temafordeling. Programmet overordnede budget fastlægges i forbindelse med vedtagelsen af EU's finansielle perspektiver 2007-2013.

Det europæiske ligestillingsinstitut

Muligt punkt på dagsordenen for rådsmødet til politisk enighed. Det kræver, at Europa-Parlamentets holdning foreligger forud for rådsmødet, hvilket formandskabet ikke forventer. Institutets overordnede budget fastlægges i forbindelse med vedtagelsen af EU's finansielle perspektiver 2007-2013.

Direktiv om overførsel af supplerende pensionsrettigheder

Kommissionen er ved at forberede et direktivforslag, som forventes fremsat inden rådsmødet. Formandskabet ønsker en udveksling af synspunkter om forslaget på rådsmødet.

Arbejdstidssagen

Formandskabet ønsker at fremme sagen mest muligt, som er sat på dagsordenen for rådsmødet til mulig politisk enighed. Formandskabet vil frem til medio september gennemføre bilaterale konsultationer og derefter fortsætte de tekniske drøftelser i Rådets socialgruppe med henblik på at finde en løsning.

Forordning 1408/71 om koordination af de sociale sikringsordninger

Der er tale om den årlige opdatering af forordningen. Formandskabet sigter mod at opnå en generel indstilling hertil på rådsmødet.

Forslag til rådsbeslutning om et europæisk år om lige muligheder for alle i 2007

Kommissionen har i juni 2005 fremlagt forslag til rådsafgørelse. Forslaget behandles for indeværende i Rådets socialgruppe. Formandskabet sigter mod at opnå en generel indstilling til forslaget på rådsmødet.

Forslag til direktiv til forenkling af procedurerne i eksisterende arbejdsmiljødirektiver

Muligt punkt på dagsordenen for rådsmødet med henblik på udveksling af synspunkter eller opnåelse af en generel indstilling. Det kræver, at Kommissionen fremlægger et direktivforslag før rådsmødet, hvilket formandskabet forventer.

Demografisk udvikling og menneskelig kapital

Formandskabet ønsker en politisk debat på rådsmødet i december herom i forbindelse med Kommissionens grønne bog om den demografiske udvikling.

Virksomhedernes sociale ansvar (CSR)

Kommissionen har oplyst, at man forventer at præsentere en meddelelse herom i oktober d.å. Formandskabet ønsker en drøftelse af meddelelsen på rådsmødet.

Kommissionens meddelelse om bæredygtigheden af Europas sociale model

Muligt punkt på dagsordenen for rådsmødet. Kommissionen forventes at præsentere meddelelsen på det uformelle møde blandt stats- og regeringscheferne i oktober eller november d.å..

For så vidt angår de sager, som ikke optræder på den foreløbige dagsorden for rådsmødet, kan følgende oplyses:

Optisk stråling

Formandskabet sigter mod opnåelse af et fleksibelt forhandlingsmandat i Co-reper forud for Europa-Parlamentets anden plenarafstemning i september, hvorved man håber at kunne nå til enighed i anden læsning.

Vikarsagen

Formandskabet forventer ikke bevægelse i denne sag, som må anses for fastlåst.

Sammenskrivning af en række direktiver på ligebehandlingsområdet ("Recast")

s. 3/3

Kommissionen skal efter Europa-Parlamentets plenarafstemning den 6. juli d.å. eventuelt fremlægge et revideret forslag. Formandskabet forventer, at man kan nå til enighed i anden læsning.

Sociale tjenesteydelser af generel interesse

Kommissionen forventer at fremlægge en meddelelse herom i oktober d.å.

Employment and Social Policy Presidency Events

1. Ministerial Informal (EPSCO) - 7/8 July 2005, Waterfront Hall, Belfast

The Informal will be an opportunity for Ministers to explore how employment can be increased and inclusion improved for:

- the economically inactive
- young people
- older people

Ministers will be invited to visit employment projects based in Belfast that have been successful in targeting help at groups of people who have previously been excluded from the labour market.

Ministerial discussions will be organised around workshops which will identify effective policy responses.

Attendance: EU Employment ministers, social partners, NGOs

Contact: Frances Thompson
0207 340 4482
frances.thompson@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

2. High Performance Workplace Conference – 15 September 2005, London

A major conference, building on the work of the Irish Presidency. The objective of the event is to raise the profile of the concept of high performance workplaces, agree a common understanding of its key elements and demonstrate how it can contribute to productivity growth and the Lisbon goals.

Attendance: Officials, business representatives and social partners

Contact: Melissa Perry
0207 215 6645
melissa.perry@dti.gsi.gov.uk

3. Hazardous Installations Directorate (HID) CCA meeting – 12/13 October 2005, Buxton

One day conference looking at Seveso (control of major-accident hazards) implementation and future strategies to enhance consistent compliance, followed by a site visit to the new Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) site in Buxton, Derbyshire.

Attendance: Senior Health and Safety officers

Contact: Anton Wilson
0151 951 5772
anton.wilson@hse.gsi.gov.uk

4. European Social Fund Conference – 14 October 2005, Manchester

This event will examine how ESF in 2000-06 is supporting national policies to promote employment opportunities for all. It will showcase good practice from current ESF programmes, looking at their contribution to the Lisbon employment agenda and disseminating good practice to domestic policy makers and planners. This will help to inform the development of successor programmes after 2006.

Attendance: European Social Fund policy makers and project staff

Contact: Duncan Carnie
0114 267 7293
duncan.carnie@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

5. Social Inclusion Round Table/ EMCO/ SPC – 17/18/19 October 2005, Edinburgh/Glasgow

The Round table is an annual event which usually takes place in Oct, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders in the EU Social Inclusion process. Discussion is likely to focus on looking forward to the 2006 Social Inclusion NAP. Following on from this, we are bringing together both the EMCO and SPC events for a combined seminar.

Attendance: Officials, NGOs, social partners

Contact: Tricia Griffiths
0207 712 2477
tricia.griffiths@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

6. Occupational Health and Safety Conference - 18/19 October, Liverpool

This event is intended to focus on health and safety as a key element of EU Social Policy and key factor contributing to the success of the Lisbon agenda.

Attendance: Health and Safety officials, employers and social partners

Contact: Rob Olsen
0207 717 6491
rob.olsen@hse.gsi.gov.uk

7. eAccessibility conference – 21 October, Landmark Hotel, London

The main theme running through the conference will be the forthcoming Communication from the European Commission on eAccessibility, which will set out an action plan to ensure that disabled and elderly citizens in Europe get equal access to electronic ICT products and therefore enjoy the social and economic freedom that these products and services gives everyone.

Speakers; EU Commissioner Vladimir Spidla, Richard Howitt (President of the European Parliament's All Party Disability Group), Bert Massie (Chief Executive of the Disability Rights Commission) and Yannis Vardakastanis (President of European Disability Forum).

Attendance: Officials and disability groups

Contact:	Paul Redwin 0207 215 1853 paul.redwin@dti.gsi.gov.uk
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8. MISSOC – 27/28 October 2005, Newman Room, Catholic Chaplincy, Oxford

MISSOC meets twice yearly and is hosted by the MS holding the Presidency. It was established by the Commission as an instrument to provide the continuous exchange of information on social protection between MS and EFTA countries. Its main task is to collect and process detailed factual information on the organisational structure and legal regulations of social protection.

Attendance: Officials working in the field of social protection

Contact: Mary Gough
0207 340 4328
mary.gough@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

10. Informed Choices: Retirement and Savings – 9 November 2005, Brussels

The population throughout Europe is both ageing and living longer, with resulting concern about the future sustainability of State spending on pensions. All Member States are having to make a radical re-appraisal of their current pension provision, both State and private, to cope with expected demographic changes. The UK has developed the Informed Choice programme, which aims to foster an increasingly proactive approach by individuals to saving for retirement.

The **Informed Choices: Retirement and Savings** meeting will showcase the Informed Choice programme and similar programmes from two other Member States. It will also allow Member States to focus on the key challenges, the steps taken so far to address those shared challenges, and how Member States can best work together to meet them.

Attendance: Pension officials and stakeholders

Contact: Geoff Warriner
020 7712 2474
geoff.warriner@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

11. Gender Equality Conference- Equality Ministers' Informal - 7/8/9 November 2005, Birmingham (M)

2005 will mark the tenth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, which was agreed at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. The Luxembourg and UK Presidencies have agreed, (in conjunction with the Commission and other Member States) to highlight this anniversary as the central theme of our gender equality Presidency programmes. At their conference in February, Luxembourg will focus on the different models of national machineries for women that Member States have evolved to

implement Beijing, whilst at the UK conference (7/8 Nov) we will highlight practical models of good practice and cutting edge policy that Member States have successfully developed, to help implement and progress the Beijing Platform for Action. This conference will involve a broad spectrum of partners, such as NGOs, academics, senior policy officials, social partners and MEPs, totalling up to 200 people.

Following the excellent practice established by most Presidencies over the last few years, we will invite Equality Ministers to an Informal meeting, which will take place immediately after the wider conference (8/9 Nov, Birmingham). Ministers will be able to consider how EU Member States have taken forward the agenda set in Beijing. We will be discussing ideas for format and content of the Ministerial at a meeting with Luxembourg and Luisa Pavan Wolfe on 5 November, to ensure that UK plans are complementary to those of Luxembourg.

In line with usual practice we shall also convene a meeting of the European Commission High Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming, to be held in London in September.

Attendance:	Ministers with responsibility for gender equality, NGOs and social partners
Contact:	Sue Valentiny 0207 276 5694 sue.valentiny@dti.gsi.gov.uk

12. Improving Life Chances of Disabled People – 8/9 November 2005, EXCEL Centre, London (M)

This event will focus on four key areas: Strategies for change and the media, Promoting Independence, Engaging with Disabled People and Mainstreaming Disability in Policy.

The conference will comprise plenary and workshop sessions designed to showcase achievements and share best practice across the EU.

Attendance:	Disability officials and NGOs.
Contact:	Darren Evett 0207 712 2294 darren.evett@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

13. Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) Conference – 9/10 November 2005, Lancaster House, London

SLIC will take place over 3 days covering various aspects of occupational health and safety (details yet tbc by CION). The event will consist of a formal business meeting, a thematic day and a site visit.

Attendance:	Members of the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee
Contact:	Rob Olsen

	0207 717 6491 rob.olsen@hse.gsi.gov.uk
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14. Small Business in the social dialogue in an enlarged Europe – 17 November 2005, London

As part of the UK's enterprise week we plan for the event on Social Dialogue to be very focused and practical - essentially a meeting of experts - looking at ways in which the existing Social Dialogue processes might be further developed where, particularly in new Member States, industries comprising mainly small and medium sized firms may lack structured union and business representation at national level to enable their voice to be effectively represented at the European level.

In taking this forward we would look to address some of the concerns flagged by new member states during the Modena Conference held under the Italian Presidency and in the Commission's own recent Social Dialogue communication – that, particularly in new Member States and where sectors are predominantly comprised of small firms the structures for social dialogue at national level are weak which means they are less able to contribute effectively to the European Social Dialogue process.

Attendance:	Officials and social partners
Contact:	Melissa Perry 0207 215 6645 melissa.perry@dti.gsi.gov.uk

15. EURES Working Party – 17/18 November 2005, Apex International Hotel, Edinburgh

The EURES Working Party is a quarterly meeting of EURES Managers that takes place in the appropriate Presidency countries and in Brussels throughout the year. It is a business meeting to consider current and future issues affecting the 28 Member States that comprise the EURES network (the EU 25 plus Iceland, Norway and Switzerland).

Current issues that are likely to be carried forward to the UK meeting in Edinburgh are: development of EURES Web Services, progress reports from working groups on labour market information, review of training provision for EURES advisers, preparation for the International Year of Workers' Mobility

Attendance:	Officials, social partners
Contact:	Peter Sydserff 0114 259 6240 peter.sydserff@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk

16. Economic Inactivity and Ill Health - Challenges and Solutions 23/24 November 2005, Cardiff City Hall, Cardiff

Present UK approach to welfare reform, in particular people with an illness,

health condition or injury, and to discuss the wider implications for EC.	
Presentations on - pathways to work, vocational rehab, occupational health, partnership working/ engaging with stakeholders	
Attendance:	Officials, NGOs and social partners
Contact:	David Jackson 0114 209 8109 david.jackson10@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

17. Heads of PES/Employment Service Conference – 30 November and 1/2 December, International Conference Centre (ICC), Birmingham	
The regular meeting of Heads of the EU Public Employment Service will be followed by 2 day conference focusing on delivery towards the Lisbon employment targets. Looking at; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addressing individual needs • services for employers delivered in a more tailored way • PES - promoting diversity in the labour market through more personalised services for individual unemployed customers and for employers • showcasing the Jobcentre Plus approach (delivering active LM policies) 	
Attendance:	Officials, employers, social partners
Contact:	Anton Eckersley 0207 273 6176 anton.eckersley@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk

18. Corporate Social Responsibility Conference - 1/2 December 2005, London	
The aim for the conference is to focus on how financial institutions can help to drive an increase in CSR through their approach to assessing company performance and future prospects; and through their potential contribution towards meeting the Millennium Development goals ie through international investment and finance for development	
The conference would provide an opportunity to share and spread best practice across member states. We would also aim to examine the contribution of existing models aimed at the financial sector with a view to generating wider sign up among financial companies and other stakeholders to relevant initiatives in support our sustainable development goals.	
We would also look to draw relevant links with other events in the lead up to our conference, for example the G8 summit and consider the scope for other organisations to run related events on the back of our conference.	
Attendance:	Officials, employers and social partners

Contact:	Jane Leavens 0207 215 1686 jane.leavens@dti.gsi.gov.uk
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EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
COUNCIL

8-9 DECEMBER 2005

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY ITEMS

1. **(poss.) Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – PROGRESS**
Interinstitutional File: 2004/0158 (COD)
 - *Political agreement*
2. **(poss.) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Institute for Gender Equality**
Interinstitutional File: 2005/0017 (COD)
 - *Political agreement*
3. **Directive on portability of supplementary pensions**
 - *Exchange of views*
4. **Amended proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/88/EC concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time**
Interinstitutional File: 2004/0209 (COD)
 - *(poss.) Political agreement*
5. **Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community (Miscellaneous amendments 2005)**
 - *General approach*
6. **Proposal for a Decision on the European Year of Equal Opportunities for all in 2007**
Interinstitutional File: 2005/0107 (COD)
 - *General approach*
7. **(poss.) Proposal for a Directive amending and simplifying procedures in existing health and safety Directives**
 - *Exchange of views or general approach*
8. **Demography and Human Capital**
 - *Policy debate*
 - *Employment Committee Opinion on Human Capital*
 - *Green Paper on Demography*

9. **EU Sustainable development strategy**
 - *Conclusions*
10. **Corporate Social Responsibility**
 - *Exchange of views on Commission communication*
11. **Annual follow-up to the Beijing Platform**
 - *Council conclusions*
12. **Annual Commission report on Immigration and Integration**
 - *Employment Committee Opinion*
13. **(poss.) Commission communication on the sustainability of the European Social Model**
 - *Social Protection Committee Opinion*