

***What role for social dialogue in ensuring the success of
NextGenerationEU?***

Presentation at the TSS

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Every job in the Next Generation EU should be a good job, with fair wages and decent conditions.

Research published yesterday by Eurofound reported that, high investment, high involvement' workplaces have the best outcomes for workers and employers but they also reported that only 20% of EU organisations fall into this category.

That's a problem.

It demonstrates that deliberate action is needed to ensure that enough companies, enough member states are taking the high road and involving trade unions in coping with the emergency and on into the recovery.

Recommendations and guidance are wholly insufficient to the task. We need much stronger action to pave the high road and to block the low road.

Paving the high road means that the Commission needs to support social partners, including with a targeted financial instrument so that they too can survive the impact of the Covid crisis and play they role as social partners.

Paving the high road means that the EU must make it a condition for next generation EU funding that social partners are involved at national level in developing and implementing recovery plans.

Paving the high road means supporting companies that respect collective bargaining – no company should be rewarded for low road strategies and action is urgently needed to ensure that no EU or Member State funding whether its grants, supports, CAP payments or public procurement goes to companies that refuse to negotiate with a trade union out as a way to get an advantage by keeping pay low and conditions poor.

Blocking the low road means bringing forward the minimum wage and collective bargaining Directive to establish a threshold of decency and end exploitative low wages and to guarantee the right to collective bargaining so that workers can get their fair share.

Blocking the low road means backing the women workers in frontline jobs by giving them the tools to challenge the undervaluing of their care and cleaning work in the pay transparency directive.

Blocking the low road needs a Commission genuinely dedicated to Social Dialogue – social dialogue is not a focus group, it's meaningful involvement in and respect for our Agreements.

Put simply, paving the high road means taking action, blocking the low road means standing up to the powerful no doubt it needs real leadership.