



## Joint declaration on the EU climate change and energy package with a view to employment

ETUC and CEEP are both deeply convinced that the European Union, as one of the most developed regions in the world, has to act now if a sustainable change of policies, technologies and habits currently affecting the world climate negatively should soon be reached. ETUC and CEEP therefore welcome the EU climate change and low carbon package warmly, in particular also the announced involvement of the social partners.

The new policy will have consequences for the European economy, for social life and for employment. The European cross-sectoral social partners CEEP and ETUC together with their national affiliates are willing and ready to contribute to this enormous process of change with their experience, their organisational structures and their ability to find solutions via social dialogue.

Being aware that the change ahead of us as it can be regarded as a complete change of political paradigms, brings both new chances but also negative effects for some groups within society, ETUC and CEEP would like to stress the following items:

- The new climate policy will create new technologies, new businesses and by that new jobs.
- It can help the EU to become the world market leader when it comes to a sustainable way of industrial production and the provision of services. Also this would create and maintain jobs in Europe.
- But to accomplish this, we need a strategic approach centred on domestic investment and quality jobs.
- New jobs could e.g. be created in
  - the energy sector if a way will be found how to combine active climate policy, for instance by the offer of energy efficiency services, with market principles and universal and equal access to energy supply;
  - the transport sector if more and better targeted investments are undertaken in public transport as well as in intelligent systems (traffic regulation, intermodal transport) for the freight and passenger transport;
  - the industrial production sector if undertakings invest in the development of innovative and climate-friendly products and the related skills, while safeguarding international competitiveness;
  - the tourism sector if sustainable tourism is made more attractive to people and workers because sustainable tourism needs a lot of workforce in services;
- the environment sector;

- the public service sector as a whole if active climate policy gets ownership until the local and enterprise level.

There will be also negative effects on some businesses and workers if they are not able to anticipate and adapt to change, to develop new production and service formula for the needs of consumers, industries and services and to restructure in time. Here the European social partners could help to find solutions for employees and undertakings in order to anticipate and avoid those negative effects or at least to mitigate them. This also requires the employers and trade union organisations to be consulted on a regular basis by the European Commission as regards the shaping and implementation of the climate change and energy package. In this context, they call upon the European Commission and the Council

- to include the climate action plan in the Lisbon Strategy with a view to use fully the Community instruments to anticipate the structural changes triggered by climate mitigation and adaptation measures, promote quality jobs and competitive businesses and support transitions for sectors and workers affected;
- to launch a coordinated initiative on more investments in education, life-long learning and vocational training in order to have a more and more high qualified and high-skilled workforce able to adapt to the need of a low carbon economy;
- to consider the establishment of a consultative committee of the European cross-sectoral social partners on climate change policy to the European commission.

Altogether CEEP and ETUC would like to stress some of the recommendations of the joint analysis of the labour markets of the European Social Partners (18 October 2007) which read:

- *Implement an efficient and sustainable energy market, promoting energy efficiency and guaranteeing the long-term supply of energy at competitive prices.*
- *Support effective and full use of Community instruments, be it to develop regional infrastructures or to support transitions in sectors and areas affected by structural changes, such provided by the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).*
- *Make the education and training systems better adapted to the need of the individual and the labour market;*
- *Foster sound and counter-cyclical macro-economic policies, in order to realise the full potential of active labour market policies.*

ETUC and CEEP reinforce again their readiness to take their responsibility in this process of change and to contribute to good results when it comes to a gain of employment.

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