

### **ILO AND EU WRAP UP TURIN CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SOCIAL MODEL AND DECENT WORK AGENDA**

Shared goals, shared challenges and shared conventions with which to regularize and channel the negative effects of globalization. This is the winning strategy for adapting to the greatest challenge of our times at international, national and local level.

**Turin, 3 July 2008** (ILO news) – Today at the Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Ministers of Labour of Denmark, India and Tanzania, the Deputy Minister of Labour of Poland, the Director-General of the ILO, Juan Somavia, the minister Gilles de Robien (the French Government representative on the ILO Governing Body) and representatives of international business associations and trade unions taking part in a conference on the European Social Model and the Decent Work Agenda reached the conclusion that the positive aspects of globalization make it a vehicle for the future.

The President of the Piedmont Region, Mercedes Bresso, in her welcoming address, also stressed that although globalization meant new opportunities, it should not be forgotten that people were worried about the future. The local institutions were therefore committed to finding a way to bring a social dimension into the processes of globalization that would reconcile economic development with collective progress.

The morning's key word was "development". It was nevertheless something to be backed up by policies offering guarantees to the workers. Decent work must become a global aim and the social partners themselves must make a commitment to fostering consensus on this shared objective. Dialogue between the North and the South of the world remains essential, and opportunities to share information and ideas together become the key to moving in the right direction.

The European ministers pointed out that the European Social Model does not set out to teach lessons. Quite the opposite: it has to renew itself by drawing inspiration from other continents and assimilating their features of dynamism and diversity. They all acknowledged that globalization has brought a strong wind of change, sometimes violent and passively endured, sometimes innovative and stimulating. "The ambition of all of us is to transform the risks of the 21<sup>st</sup> century into new opportunities that meet the expectations of our citizens."

The principles of the European Social Model are integrated into the ILO's Decent Work Agenda, a programme that plays a strategic role in non-European countries. It is also becoming a touchstone for countries seeking the same objective of social justice, provided it is accompanied by respect for the standards and fundamental rights at work enshrined in the ILO's Conventions.

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