



~BACKGROUND~

SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU

TRIPARTITE SOCIAL SUMMIT

24 MARCH 2011

The Tripartite Social Summit for Growth and Employment will take place on 24 March in the morning just before the European Council. The Summit, which is a forum for dialogue with the European social partners, will be co-chaired by the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the Prime Minister of Hungary.

This Summit will discuss growth and jobs in times of budgetary/fiscal consolidation. The issue is closely related to the agenda of the European Council, which will review the economic situation and agree on measures to defend financial stability, lay the ground for a sustainable and job-creating growth in the Union as a whole and adopt the Pact for enhanced coordination in the Eurozone.

The Social Summit constitutes a timely opportunity to hear the views of social partners at a time when achieving a degree of consensus on how to pave the way for a sustainable economic recovery and to put in place labour market reforms for more and better jobs is more necessary than ever.

Policies to bring sustainable growth with more jobs, as well as fiscal consolidation, are parts of the EU 2020 Strategy that the EU promotes with the involvement of social partners. Thus, social partners' mobilisation and appropriate participation in the shaping, implementation and monitoring of European and national reform strategies is an underlying condition for achieving long-term growth and employment, while ensuring social cohesion and preserving Europe's social model.

P R E S S

Background information:

The Tripartite Social Summit for Growth and Employment, which usually meets twice a year, aims to ensure continuous dialogue at the highest level between the Council, the Commission and the Presidents/General Secretaries of the principal European employers' and trade union organisations: i.e BusinessEurope on the employers' side and the European trade unions confederation (ETUC) on the trade unions' side.

The objective is to allow a better correlation between the Council's and Commission's political orientations on growth and jobs and the initiatives developed by the European social partners within their autonomous social dialogue.

Programme:

The meeting will begin at 9.30 and will be followed by a press conference at 12.30.

Press conferences and public events by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu/>

Video coverage for preview and download in broadcast quality (MPEG4):
<http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu>
