



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008
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La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

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Intervention of the State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia Mrs Romana Tomc on behalf of the Slovenian Presidency of the European Union

Dear Mr Chairman, Commissioner Špidla and distinguished guests,

Allow me first to thank the European Commission for organizing this interesting side event.

Unfortunately, after all those years and documents adopted, too many people still, do not experience adequate social protection or social protection at all. Fortunately enough, the European Union is well equipped to promote both stronger partnership and social protection coverage.

The promotion of social security and social protection as an essential part of the decent work agenda is high on the European agenda. Taking in the account that the promotion of decent work for all is a strategic goal at the global level, I would like to stress that the European Union is strongly aware of the responsibility it plays at the global level. Therefore, the revised Lisbon Strategy also anticipated the inclusion of the external dimension which envisages a proactive role for the Union in promoting open markets and improving global (social) standards.

We need to be aware that promoting decent work is our common objective and obligation, an objective that in view of the ever greater consequences of

globalisation requires, in the first place, a partnership among public authorities, social partners and civil society. In order to ensure that the advantages of globalisation are shared by the widest possible circle of people, a proactive approach as well as a channelling of globalisation, is necessary.

The European Summit adopted a Declaration on Globalisation in December 2007 which emphasizes the European Union's commitment to strengthening the social dimension of globalisation and thus to promoting decent work.

Creating conditions which provide a possibility and an opportunity for everyone, which lead to a dignified and quality life remain important tasks for the European Union. The Slovenian Presidency of the European Union will focus in particular on further development of high quality employment and social policies. A successful Informal Meeting of Ministers for Employment, Social Affairs and Gender Equality at Brdo in Slovenia last week presents a good example of main topics we will be dealing with during the Slovenian Presidency.

Therefore the Slovenian Presidency supports events such as this one. We sincerely hope that such debates will raise awareness of wide public and will lead to more concrete decisions and measures on local, regional and global levels.

Thank you very much for your attention.