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**NOTE**

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from : The Presidency  
to : COUNCIL (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs)

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**Subject : Outcomes and Conferences of the Spanish Presidency  
- Information from the Presidency  
(Any other business item)**

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Delegations will find attached a note from the Presidency.

### **Labour Ministry and Social Security**

Conference on posting of workers and labour rights (Oviedo, 17- 18 March 2010).

Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility (Palma de Mallorca, 25- 26 March 2010).

European Conference on New Skills for New Jobs for a more competitive Europe  
(Barcelona, 8-9 April 2010).

European Conference on self-employment, entrepreneurship and employment quality (Sevilla 15-16  
April 2010)

European Conference on the social economy: doing business differently, challenges and  
opportunities in a global world (Toledo, 6 -7 May 2010)

European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean Meeting on the coordination of Social Security  
Schemes: Meeting of Social Security Ministers and High-Level Officials  
(Alcalá de Henares - Madrid, 13, May 2010)

Conference on New Approaches by Public Employment Services to enhance people's employability  
and adaptability to new forms of employment (Zaragoza, 27-28 May 2010).

Conference for the mid-term review of the community strategy on health and safety at work  
2007-2012 (Barcelona, 3- 4 June 2010)

### **Equality Ministry**

Informal Meeting of Ministers of Equality (Valencia, 26 March 2010)

Experts Meeting Equality and the Media (Madrid, 31 May 2010).

### **Ministry of Health and Social Protection**

Opening Conference of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Inclusion"  
(Madrid, 21 January 2010)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Roma Summit – Promoting policies in favour of the Roma population  
(Córdoba, 8-9 April 2010)

Active and Healthy Ageing “Celebration of the European Day of Solidarity Between Generations”  
(Logroño (La Rioja), 29-30 April 2010).

Third Informal Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Disability policies (Zaragoza ,19 May 2010).

Conference on Disability and Personal Autonomy through Education , Employment and Universal  
Accessibility (Zaragoza, 20- 21 May 2010).

**European Conference on posting of workers and labour rights**  
**(Oviedo, 17- 18 March 2010)**

The Spanish EU Presidency Conference “*Conference on posting of workers and labour rights*” was hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Immigration, with the support of the European Commission and held on 17-18 March 2010 in Oviedo (Spain).

The main aim of the Conference was to debate the Posting of Workers Directive’s scope within the framework of the free provision of services, (following the interpretation problems that this Directive has been setting out as a result of the Viking, Laval and Ruffert ECT’s judgments), with representatives from the EU Governments, European Institutions, academics, jurists as well as employers associations and trade union organizations both at a national and European level.

For two days, the overall theme of the Conference was addressed in 5 consecutive sessions discussing on the search for a solution that allows achieving an equilibrium between economic freedom and fundamental social rights while guaranteeing at the same time the full application of the labour and social rights -as recognized in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and in national rules laid down to these purposes; on the problems of application of the Directive; on social partners’ positions on free movement of workers; on the administrative cooperation among Member States and the instruments to ensure responsibility.

Among the main conclusions of the conference, we may highlight the following: it does not seem necessary to carry out a Directive’s revision but rather a control and an even application in all Member States; the Directive continues to be a useful instrument in its double economic and social dimension; it is necessary to improve and strengthen administrative collaboration among Member States so as to make the actions adopted more effective when applying this Directive.

**European Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility**  
**(Palma de Mallorca, 25- 26 March 2010)**

Under the Spanish Presidency of the European Union, took place on 25 and 26 March 2010 in Palma de Mallorca (Spain), a European Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility, whose objectives were CSR as a strategy on a sustainable economic framework and its contribution to the development of the European Union 2020 and to review the results of the ongoing process of dialogue and multilateral actual government policies to promote Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

We have had four european level workshops on the report of CSR, Consumption, Socially Responsible Investment and Competitiveness, in which conclusions and recommendations that we allow us to advance and reflect on the role of CSR in a globalized world.

Among the main conclusions of the conference highlights:

There was discussion on the voluntary or liability in the report by firms, models, standards and indicators to be contained and the role of the report itself, represents a process of continuous improvement in management company

Public authorities should promote socially responsible consumption through public procurement, political will is needed to introduce incentives for socially responsible consumption. Consumers can make incorporate corporate socially responsible behaviour by rewarding or punishing an active drug through the actions undertaken by companies including those of its value chain. We need a more concise and transparent information to the consumer, it must receive clear and reliable messages, improving the comparability of products and services, is important to be reflected in the Strategy 2020 of the European Union. Promote education in raising awareness on socially responsible criteria values of the consumer.

CSR means a new form of management in the enterprise, is part of business strategy and affects all types of organizations including SMEs, however the same principles that apply to big companies do not have to apply to SMEs. CSR is a key to exit the economic crisis we are facing and help us regain the confidence of citizens. Competitiveness of the team Indissolubility-sustainability, it is necessary to implement CSR policies of concern to both the company and its stakeholders and to enable us to improve the performance of companies on both the national and to third countries.

The problem of unemployment is an issue that must be addressed from the perspective of CSR, being in itself a key element of labour policy through dialogue with the conditions of work with social partners, the code of conduct employees and as inclusive strategy to include all groups of workers (disabled people, immigrants, disadvantaged, etc).

**European Conference on New Skills for New Jobs for a more competitive Europe**  
**(Barcelona, 8- 9 April 2010)**

The Spanish EU Presidency together with the European Commission organized the European *Conference on New Skills for New Jobs for a more competitive Europe* held in Barcelona on 8-9 April 2010. The Conference was attended by politicians, representatives of the EU Member States and the European Commission as well as social partners and academics.

The Conference was organized in three sessions and a panel debate, discussed the following:

- 1) Open debate on skills and jobs for the future.
- 2) NSNJ. Looking for what it works.
- 3) The EU and national initiatives in response to the future challenges and, finally the panel debate. NSNJ a benchmarking initiative for the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The debate and conclusions of the Conference focussed on highlighting skills as essential for the creation of stable and high quality employment and on the significance of the acquisition of competencies for new jobs within the Europe 2020 Strategy, as a key and competitiveness factor.

Emphasis was put on the fact that although we are facing a crisis situation, at the same time it can be an opportunity to pursue a new growth model. It's necessary to address a new pattern improving skills' incentives and investment in abilities. Systematic data on future trends and occupations should be collected and to this purpose, the role to be played by Public Employment Services is essential. Key competencies such as innovativeness, team-work, and motivational and diversity management should be acquired by workforce.

Collaboration and shared responsibility is required: the private-public cooperation and involvement of all stakeholders, particularly social partners, employers and workers. Qualification policies should be integrated into growth strategies and industrial policies including measures to promote innovativeness and effective use of skills. Firms should be further involved. Education, training and work worlds should be closer together as well as lifelong learning.

We should take advantage of opportunities coming from new technologies and prioritize future growing sectors. It is also necessary to enhance transversal competencies, improving learning in consolidated industries providing up-skilling to unemployed people.

Workers' attitudes towards lifelong learning should be strengthened and incentivize their participation while recognizing and making more flexible the learning acquired by non-formal via.

Likewise it is necessary that there exists a fairer labour market which favours European social cohesion as a sign of European identity.

The role to be played by women as regards the acquisition of new competencies is crucial. All data point their qualification is increasingly rising. So that it is needed to promote policies to combine work, family life and professional career.

**European Conference on self-employment, entrepreneurship and employment quality**  
**(Sevilla, 15- 16 April 2010)**

Under the Spanish Presidency of the European Union, took place on 15 and 16 April 2010 in Sevilla (Spain), a European Conference on Self- Employment, Entrepreneurship and Employment Quality , whose objectives were be fostering entrepreneurship and promote quality employment and to analysis the framework of the enterprise and self-employed with reference to the status and regulation of the economically dependent self-employed and exchange of experiences in the field of EU social protection of self-employed.

We have had an european level workshop on the criteria and thinks of organizations Self-Employment, Social Partners in which they share experiences and best practices on self-employment nationally and internationally.

The European Conference of the Spanish Presidency on self-employment, entrepreneurship and quality of employment began with a powerful panel discussion devoted to analysis and association through the prism of self-employment. Several autonomous associations, trade unions and business with all the diversity and heterogeneity that brings the figure of the self, discussed past, present and future of self-employed. After the initial workshop chaired by the Director General of Social Economy Self-Employment and CSR, it became clear that the strength of associations of the self is strong, it is necessary to consider the claims for this type of workers and This can be a crucial element for employment and economic recovery.

In any case, it is clear that this is a matter of great debate and being treated in the opinion on self-employment trends by the Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship of the European Economic and Social Committee .In the last panel of the conference had the opportunity to discuss one of the key elements of self-employment: social protection and equal rights and benefits to the employee. Connoisseurs of great prestige in the field have an impact on various key points to understand the impact and improvements in the issue of social protection of self-employed, with the debate that has affected two areas as important for independent work such as social security and independent health and safety .The Conference concluded its work with the intervention of Deputy MTIN, the European Commission and the Deputy Minister of Employment of the Junta de Andalucía In the closing session highlighted the importance of the Conference have served to reflect and advance the shared intention to place across Europe at the forefront of social protection, promotion and expansion of self-employed and independent worker.



**Conference on New approaches by Public Employment Services to enhance people's employability and adaptability to new forms of employment (Zaragoza, 27-28 May 2010)**

The Spanish EU Presidency Conference “*New approaches by Public Employment Services to enhance people's employability and adaptability to new forms of employment*” was organized by the Ministry of Labour and Immigration, with the support of the European Commission and held on 27-28 May 2010 in Zaragoza (Spain).

The overall objective of the Conference was to discuss the changes that are arising in the labour market and analyze the measures that must be taken by Public Employment Services to enhance workers' employability and adaptability to the future labour market's requirements and needs.

The conference was organised throughout two days in three consecutive sessions focussing on the role to be played by SPE in managing professional itineraries; on improved employability of those groups who experience more difficulties for (re) entering labour market –youth and long-term unemployed, groups who are at risk of becoming detached from the labour market and get inactive as well as the future challenges for SPE.

More outstanding aspects of the conference:

- Public Employment Services are necessary in times of crisis and expansion in order to promote and accompany changes in the access to job and enhancing employment. So that, Europe as a whole is strengthening its PES to tackle the crisis.
- It has been noted that achieving complementary action and cooperation is indispensable between public and private agents.
- Coordination between education and employment policies is fundamental –transition from education system to work- as well as it is essential in order to carry out a preventive task of unemployment.
- Another challenge is to link economic unemployment coverage to improved employability activities so as to reduce as possible unemployment spells.
- Progress is been made with respect to the cultural change in the relationship between Administration and users, which means to be better connected as well as reaching a wide use of internet, in order to widen opportunities and personalize responses through affordable, freely and well-positioned webs.

Lastly, the Commission has taken on the commitment to support the dialogue between all European SPE through a mutual learning programme.

**Conference for the mid-term review of the community strategy on health and safety at work  
2007-2012 (Barcelona, 3- 4 June 2010)**

The Spanish EU Presidency Conference was organized by the Ministry of Labour and Immigration, with the support of the European Commission and was held on 3-4 April 2010 in Barcelona (Spain).

The overall objective of the Conference was the critical analysis of the implementation of the Community Strategy on Safety and Health at Work (2007-2012) through the evaluation of the national strategies' outcomes in the mid-term validity making proposals to its review as well as the analysis of the reliability of assessment indicators.

The conference was ran throughout two days in plenary sessions and working groups dedicated to examine the implementation of a modern and effective regulatory framework; the promotion of developing national strategies and encouraging healthy and safe behavioural attitudes.

Among the main conclusions of the Conference, we may underline the following:

- European Strategy on Safety and Health at Work 2007-2012 continues to have full relevance but it requires an adaptation to currently social and economic change.
- In spite of the fact that progress has been made, it is needed still to deepen even more regarding the employers and workers' sensitiveness to a preventive culture for productive systems in order to improve health and safety conditions at work.

**Information note of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union on the  
Informal Meeting of Ministers of Equality (Valencia, 26 March 2010)**

On the 26 March, an Informal Meeting of Ministers of Equality was held in Valencia. The subject of the discussion was “Equality between Women and Men as a basis for Growth and Employment”. The Spanish Presidency decided to focus this meeting on economic growth as a timely topic considering the preparations of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The debate was enriching and fruitful and underlined the importance of the target of 75% of employment for both women and men by 2020, the elimination of the gender salary gap also by 2020, and the need to advance in the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men in the private life as a way to further incorporate women in the labour market and to avoid that maternity and childcare constitute obstacles to that effect.

In general, it was generally acknowledged that equality is not an impediment but a necessary factor that contributes to the economic growth and the employment recovery in Europe. It translates into more competitiveness, more fiscal revenues and more social protection and it contributes to the reduction of poverty.

In the occasion of the Informal Meeting of Ministers in Valencia, the Trio Presidency Declaration of Equality was presented. It contains the common objectives of Equality in the European Union for the next year.

**Information from the Spanish Presidency on the Experts Meeting "Equality and the Media"  
(Madrid, 31 May 2010)**

On 31 May, in the framework of Spain's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, a Experts Meeting on "Equality and the Media" took place in Madrid. This meeting gathered together gender experts from academia, journalism as well as from governments of the Member States of the European Union and of the European Institutions.

The main objective of the Conference was to open a specific debate on gender equality in the media. The importance of media in bringing about real equality between women and men was examined from two different angles. On the one hand, the representation and role of women in the organisation and composition of the media companies themselves, their staff distribution and the share of power. On the other hand, as opinion-makers, the role that media plays in the setting (and changing) of roles and stereotypes that we witness in our societies.

Participants discussed subjects connected to equality in the structural composition of the media and its reflection in the content media generates; new communication models; good practices to promote the gender perspective in the media; and equality indicators in the media.

## **Opening Conference of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Inclusion (Madrid, 21 January 2010)**

On the 21 January, The Spanish EU Presidency together with the European Commission organised the Opening Conference of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in Madrid

The Conference, entitled *Building together a society for all*, launched a campaign intended to renew the European Union's commitments to the fight against poverty and social exclusion, focused on four policy objectives: recognising of rights of people living in a situation of poverty and social exclusion, shared responsibility and participation, promoting a more cohesive society, and reiterating the strong political commitment of both the European Union and the Member States to have a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty and social exclusion.

The event brought together representatives from Member States, the European Commission, the European Parliament and other European institutions and bodies, as well as representatives from candidate countries and EFTA, Social Action NGOs, social partners, academics and experts in the social field.

The main findings of the Conference can be summarized into five key messages:

- The fight against poverty and social exclusion must be a part of the Europe 2020 Strategy.
- The involvement of relevant stakeholders could be possibly formalised through a European Social Pact.
- The new instruments of the Lisbon Treaty, such as the Charter of Fundamental Rights. should be used and the Social Open Method of Coordination be reinforced.
- The principles and objectives of Active Inclusion Strategy must be fully implemented.
- Political commitments must result in specific priorities and actions targeted at the most vulnerable.

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Roma Summit – Promoting policies in favour of the Roma population (Córdoba, 8-9 April 2010)**

The II European Roma Summit was held in Córdoba on the 8 and 9 of April in the framework of the International Roma Day and under the title *Promoting policies in favour of the Roma population*. The Summit was a high-profile event that gathered over 500 persons from wide ranging fields, political figures, representatives from national and international organisations and NGO activists among others.

This Summit followed the First Summit held in 2008 in Brussels. The aims of this II European Roma Summit were to generate debate on the progress made in recent years in European and national policies and the goals that should be met in the immediate future. Emphasis was placed on the need to ensure that the Roma perspective is central to EU policies (*mainstreaming*), including the Europe 2020 strategy; the importance of ensuring access to and adaptation of financial instruments; and the progress expected from the Integrated Platform for Roma Inclusion and the implementation of its Common Basic Principles.

The first day's work agenda combined plenary sessions and four parallel roundtables. The morning session included two roundtables focused on the *Progress and Challenges in European and national policies with the Roma* and the *Assessment of policies*. The afternoon session consisted on parallel roundtables that focused on the main Principles of the European Platform for Roma Inclusion, n° 2 *Explicit but not exclusive targeting*, n° 5 *Awareness of the gender dimension*, n°7 *Use of Community Instruments* and n° 9 *Involvement of civil society*.

On the second day the Roundtable focused on the Roma health and social inequalities. Substantial progress has been made on Roma issues, confirming that at European level there are working principles, approaches and criteria which have been commonly assumed by most of the stakeholders however in some cases the living conditions of the Roma are deteriorating. For this reason long-term measures are essential for have impact, combining mainstreaming of Roma issues in relevant policies and specific actions.

The Córdoba Declaration was presented by the Trio Presidencies (Spain, Belgium and Hungary). It stressed the importance of the fact that, for the first time three countries are making a joint commitment within the framework of a Summit, and thus guaranteeing continuity. The Declaration focuses on three main objectives: ensuring that the Roma issue is central to all relevant policies (mainstreaming); the importance of guaranteeing increased access to financial instruments, particularly the Structural Funds; and the need to advance in the efforts of the Platform.

## **Conference on Active and Healthy Ageing and on the celebration of the European Day of the Solidarity Between Generations (Logroño (La Rioja), 29-30 April 2010)**

The 29 and 30 April, the Ministry of Health and Social Policy, throughout the Institute for Older Persons and Social Services (IMSERSO) and with the support of the European Commission– Programme PROGRESS (2007-2013) organized a Conference on Active and Healthy Ageing in Logroño. In addition, the 29 April the “European Day of Solidarity between Generations” was celebrated. The Conference was attended by representatives of governments of the EU Member States, members of the European Commission and the European Parliament as well as representatives of bodies, institutions, associations and experts dedicated to ageing.

The aim of this Conference was to promote an active ageing as a measure to allow older persons to enjoy a healthy life fully integrated in their environment.

The concrete objectives of the Conference were:

- To identify the key elements that permit older persons to enjoy an active ageing and lead an independent life,
- To promote the development of illness prevention plans and to improve the quality of life of older persons,
- To explore proposals for actions to improve active and healthy ageing in the EU Member States.

Participants fruitfully debated and made proposals on measures to be taken in the following areas: healthy ageing, life-long learning, active working life, social participation and solidarity between generations.

It was widely acknowledged that the achievement of the full integration of older persons in their environment, and boosting the development of relationships between generations and the solidarity between were considered interlinked and mutually reinforcing objectives.



**Third Informal Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Disability policies  
(Zaragoza, 19 May 2010)**

On the 19 May, an Informal Meeting of Ministers in charge of Disability policies was held in Zaragoza. The meeting was chaired by the Spanish Minister of Health and Social Policy, Trinidad Jiménez. The Vice-president of the Commission and Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, Viviane Reding, and the President of the Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament, Adam Kosa also took part in the meeting together with representatives of European organizations of people with disabilities.

The main objectives of the Informal Meeting were: the exchange of information and proposals on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities in the Member States; the launching of the new Disability Strategy 2010-2020; and the compromises to be taken by Member States and European Institutions towards the persons with disabilities and their families.

The participants underlined the need to tackle disability not only as a matter of social services but as a question of human rights; discussed the fact that women with disability can face multiple discrimination; and stressed the need to mainstream disability issues in the main initiatives and measures of the EU, in particular, the EU 2020; and to foster the cooperation with the organizations of people with disabilities.

It is necessary to speed up implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities despite the current economic situation to avoid further inequalities and social exclusion. In this regard, it was highlighted that the new EU Disability Strategy could coordinate the application of the UN Convention without prejudice to national strategies. Ministers also proposed to create a specialized forum to inform on the progress in tackling disability issues; to strengthen the exchange of good practices among the Member States; and supported the holding of periodic meetings and workshops in order to help develop joint cooperation methods for a coherent and coordinated implementation of the EU Convention.

The Informal meeting also welcomed the the initiative of a European award for accessible cities to be launched this year.

## **Conference on Disability and Personal Autonomy through Education , Employment and Universal Accessibility (Zaragoza, 20- 21 May 2010)**

The Conference on Disability and Personal Autonomy through Education, Universal Accessibility and Employment, was held on 20 and 21 May in Zaragoza within the programme of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union. It was organized by the Spanish Ministry of Health and Social Policy, with the support of the European Commission.

This conference had a threefold objective: First, it aimed at debating and encouraging the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In addition, it sought the promotion and development of policies ensuring the rights of people with disabilities on equal footing with other citizens of the EU. Lastly, it aimed at promoting a new European Disability Framework 2010-2020, which should also contribute to the implementation of the Convention in Europe.

The Spanish Minister of Health and Social Policy, European Commission Vice-President and Commissioner for Justice, Rights and Citizenship and other representatives of the European Commission, Member States, organizations of civil society and good practice managers attended this event.

The following ideas were stressed:

- There is a need for a rapid and effective ratification and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol. In this regard, the Europe 2020 Strategy, the open method of coordination in the social field and the appointment of a liaison group that would include civil society representatives, would be of help.

- It is important to include disability mainstreaming in the new European political cycle and its key instruments.
- It is essential to ensure universal accessibility- as a mean to enjoy fundamental rights-, by accessibility standards in the single market for goods and services, and the promotion and improvement of accessibility by establishing a European Award for Accessible Cities.

- The need for establishing accessibility criteria in all phases of buildings and infrastructure construction, as well as the inclusion of the “Design for All” approach in the education curricula.
- It is crucial to facilitate mobility for persons with disabilities, and therefore, it is necessary to adopt of EU rules on maritime transport and bus.
- Closing the digital divide that affects people with disabilities is a must. This should be done by establishing a regulatory framework that would cover broadband and mobile communications, as well as by redefining the concept of universal service.
- Participation and personal autonomy of people with disabilities should be ensured, facilitating the transition from institutions to community services and eradicating any degrading treatment that may still persist. In this sense, structural funds should be used as an instrument for change, and the debates on a new Directive on Non-Discrimination should continue.
- There is a need for the integration of persons with disabilities in the labour market, as this is crucial for achieving the Global Strategy for Employment objectives.
- Inclusive education is necessary, aiming at a model that addresses the diversity, as well as making a realistic analysis of the educational environment situation.
- A new European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 should be adopted as soon as possible, in cooperation with Member States and civil society, and should include indicators to measure progress achieved.
- It is crucial to strengthen mechanisms for collaboration and participation of the organizations of persons with disabilities and their

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