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Fair Globalization – Fair Employment

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ABSTRACT:

This speech continues the discussion started by the ILO World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation in 2004. It emphasises changes in the international division of labour should be carry out so that they can be mainly seen as a possibility for employment and not as a threat. To reach this aim, far reaching outlook and persistent work and wide cooperation are needed both internationally and between the different parties inside the countries.

Work still is the source of all welfare. Therefore, we must make constant efforts for higher employment. Creating new workplaces is in a key position. It is laid out that we must be unprejudiced and creative when searching for ways of combining the high level of working environment and social security with the requirements of productivity and economic growth.

The impacts of globalisation are addressed. At its worst globalisation is seen as a violent, sudden change to own culture, accelerating pace of work and exploitation, and for employees it may mean at its worst massive losses of workplaces, ‘accepting’ under pressure reductions in pay, and long-lasting insecurity in their personal economy. At its best, development results in new workplaces, better working conditions and higher income.

Positive development in European working conditions are stated to be a result of a determined policy. Europe has long traditions of determined working life development. Its basic elements are comprehensive legislation and intensive cooperation between the players. Active labour market organisations and mutual cooperation have played an important part in improving working conditions. Procedures for cooperation have been established in workplaces. Attitudes toward occupational safety and health and the development of occupational health have generally become more positive than they used to be.

Investment in workplace welfare serves the purpose of the Lisbon strategy. Higher productivity is a prerequisite for growth. It is stated that more attention should be paid to those positive effects that high-quality working life and good working conditions have on productivity.