

Joint Statement of the Greek Social Partners (GSEE-SEV-GSEVEE-ESEE-SETE)

Athens, 19/7/2016

The workers' and employers' trade union organizations that co-sign the National General Collective Agreement have agreed as follows:

1. They underline that as "best practices" should be considered those in line with the European Social Model and the protection of social and labour rights that define the European identity. They refer to the text of guiding principles signed between the European social partners' organizations and the European Commission on 27-6-2016.
2. They reaffirm, in their entirety, the agreements obtained in the tripartite meetings held under the auspices of ILO on 30 September 2014 in Geneva and on 26 November 2015 in Zappeion, incorporated into and made an integral part of them.
3. They consider that reducing the minimum wage or abolishing the 13th and 14th salaries is not an issue.
4. They highlight the need to initiate the social dialogue process, thus enabling the social partners, among other things, to reach an agreement, within the framework of the National General Collective Agreement, on the statutory minimum wage legally binding for all workers.
5. Finally, they agree that Law 1264/1982 should be modernized and updated, in particular with regard to addressing practices of incorrect implementation, however, without questioning the right to strike and the constitutional protection of the trade union action.

As regards the procedure and in view of the new round of negotiations between the Labour Ministry and the Institutions on labour issues in the immediate future, they propose that a consensual and sincere, if possible tripartite, social dialogue should be launched taking into account the conditions of high unemployment and deep recession in the country and the fact that negotiations between the Ministry and the Institutions will take place at the level of detailed legislative rules and regulations.

More specific positions of the social partners have already been made public and brought to the attention of the Independent Committee of Experts.

Against this background and with a view to putting forward and further specify the above mentioned positions, the following procedure is proposed to be pursued during the negotiations.

1st meeting: between the Independent Committee of Experts and the Social Partners on the labour market. Once they have drawn up their draft proposals, the social partners must be given individually the opportunity to comment on the potential impact of these proposals. Upon the finalization of the report, a separate Appendix should be included whereby each organization will be able to express its views on the Experts' proposals.

2nd meeting: between the two parties of the negotiation and the Social Partners. In the initial phase of the exchange of views process between the Ministry and the Institutions, social partners will receive the text with the specific legislative acts proposed by both parties so as to be able to express their views.

3rd meeting: between the two parties of the negotiation and the Social Partners. During the negotiation process and, in particular, upon its completion, the specific legislative acts as formulated and possibly amended by the Ministry and the Institutions, will be notified to social partners so as to have the opportunity to comment on them with a view to formulating, if possible, a common national position.