

Asia-Europe Labour Forum

Policy Proposals to the 5th ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers' Conference

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Macro-economic policies to stimulate decent work creation

Employment-led growth and the creation of millions of new decent jobs

- with robust measures to raise labour demand, including public investment in social and physical infrastructure, and the care-economy;
- raising low and middle-incomes to reverse the decline in the labour income share;
- introducing and strengthening social protection floors;
- guaranteeing universal access to basic public services;
- and actively supporting the transition from the informal to the formal economy.
- promoting the effective implementation of the ILO Conventions on Fundamental Rights at Work

Promoting social dialogue in supply chains

Social dialogue is an indispensable element of good governance, promotes social stability and cohesion and have the potential to boost economic and social progress.

- Increasing workers' protection;
 - recognising the responsibility of business to apply due diligence across the supply chains;
 - promoting the ratification and effective implementation of the ILO Conventions on Fundamental Rights at Work;
 - taking action to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
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- the continuation of the “Social Dialogue for Working Conditions” project;
 - Ministers to recognise the responsibility of business to apply due diligence across the supply chains and;
 - the need to strengthen the use of UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Social protection floors for sustainable and inclusive growth

Call to ASEM LEMC to establish broad social protection systems and improve the financial sustainability and the quality of existing ones;

- the ratification of ILO Convention No. 102 on social protection and the implementation of ILO Recommendation No. 202 on social protection floors;
- the continuation of the relevant projects and;
- the provision of technical assistance from partners with long experience in social protection systems

Advancing the global discourse on OSH

Call to ASEM LEMC to contribute to the work of the G20 and the G7, in particular:

- with the continuation of the project on occupational safety and health (OSH) and measures to monitor the observance of such regulations, with a special focus on supply chains, and as means to follow up the G7 Action for Fair Production

Addressing youth unemployment and long-term unemployment

- The Asia-Europe Labour Forum supports employment targets for youth employment, youth guarantees, and accessibility of vocational training as needed in order to help create new opportunities for youth currently out of employment.
- Activating dialogue on labour market policies for long-term unemployed is another area where ASEM could develop a better understanding.

Responsibility toward refugees and migrants

Workers in Asia and Europe expect commitments to resettle refugees and asylum seekers and to afford all migrants the right to decent work.

Granting equal protection to migrant workers is the best way to protect the jobs and wages of workers in the host country.

- The ASEM LEMC5 could launch a new project on migrant labour

Taking immediate action on climate change

With a view to a Paris Climate agreement, governments should take concrete steps to:

- reduce emissions;
- agree on a robust mechanism of periodical review for raising ambition over time;
- developed countries to mobilise USD 100bn by 2020 for adaptation;
- a commitment to “Just Transition” measures in Paris would enable industrial transformation in all sectors

Granting the AELF the status of “ASEM Forum”

Trade unions have been engaged in the ASEM process since its beginning in 1996

- ASEM dialogues to become more inclusive;
- increase relevant experience, especially on issues of employment and social affairs;
- and ownership of ASEM’s work.