



BUSINESSEUROPE



Brussels, 31 March 2010

Dear Sir, Madam,

Re: joint study "The employment impact of climate change policies"

European labour markets are faced with many challenges, such as technological change, globalisation and demographic ageing. Adding to that, it is expected that climate change adjustment policies will imply a process of job creation, job destruction and job adaptation across the EU. Overall, however, relatively little is known about the impact of moving towards a low-carbon economy on employment and future skills needs.

Accordingly, European social partners have decided to undertake an exploratory joint study entitled **"The employment impact of climate change policies"** to better understand the impact of climate change adjustment policies on labour markets and to assess what is and can be the role of social partners at national level in this respect.

This follows on from the commitment of by European Social Partners in their Social Dialogue Work Programme 2009-2010 to: *"develop a joint approach to the social and employment aspects and consequences of climate change policies with a view to maximising opportunities and minimising negative effects and to identify possible joint actions."*

It is intended to help European social partners to:

- Assess the impact of climate change adjustment policies (e.g. environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, reducing emissions) on labour market policies in Europe;
- Assess the impact on future skills needs;
- Identify and discuss any present or future actions and / or ways in which social partners can work, separately or jointly, to better address climate change adjustment policies and their impact on employment.

A large part of the rationale of this initiative is to capture positive examples of how companies and / or social partners are approaching the issue across a range of industries, sectors, and / or territories.

To help us conduct the study, European social partners have joint selected as subcontractor and project expert Alain Mestre of the organisation SYNDEX. The preparatory and research-based work necessary to complete the study will be entrusted to Mr Mestre, who will be assisted by Mr Morvannou, also of SYNDEX.



1. Literature Review and Preparatory Survey

The first stage of the study will be to start mapping out, through conducting a literature review and consultations with national social partner organisations affiliated to European social partners, what the impact of climate change is on labour markets, and how respective members are already separately or jointly active in approaching the issue at different levels.

Please hereby find enclosed a short fact-finding survey, prepared by the project expert and addressed to member organisations of European social partners in EU member states and candidate countries Croatia and Turkey.

During the course of the study, the project expert may also contact you directly to consolidate research findings and may also undertake visits to certain countries, as needed.

2. Two EU-Level seminars

Together with preliminary research results of the literature review, the survey findings should be available by May 2010, in advance of the first of two EU-level seminars to be held in Brussels scheduled for June 2010.

The aim of the seminar, which will bring together up to 100 participants, is to discuss the results of the survey as well as the literature review but also to examine concrete case studies of ways in which climate change has had an impact on a company / sector / territory. The aim would be to have wherever possible joint (employer/trade union) presentations explaining the cases.

The second seminar would not be scheduled to take place before March / April 2011. The objective of this stock-taking event would be to present the draft final project expert's research report where a series of conclusions are expected to be drawn.

Social partner representatives from all Member States and Candidate Countries Croatia and Turkey will be invited to participate in both events¹.

Should you require any further clarification about the study and its activities please do not hesitate to contact your European social partner organisation:

- ETUC (Cinzia Sechi, csechi@etuc.org, tel. +32 2 224 0468);
- BUSINESSEUROPE (Matthew Higham, m.higham@businessseurope.eu, tel. +32 2 237 6592);
- UEAPME (Liliane Volozinskis, l.volozinskis@ueapme.com, tel. +32 2 285 0720);
- CEEP (Valeria Ronzitti, valeria.ronzitti@ceep.eu, tel. +32 2 229 2142).

We look forward to your active participation in this joint study.

Yours faithfully,

For ETUC



Joël Decaillon

For BUSINESSEUROPE



Steven D'Haeseleer

For UEAPME



Liliane Volozinskis

For CEEP



Valeria Ronzitti

¹ Social partners from EEA countries will also be able to attend at their own cost, in line with EC rules.