

ETUC

Annual EWC Conference

Bruxelles September 15th-16th 2015

The opening of the Forum presents results of CES and ETUC project on how to progress into the transnational cooperation among unions.

However it is highly demonstrated on how the right of EWC to be informed and consulted is not working due to the fact that there are not specific rules and each company follows the best options in order to apply the directive in the way that best suits to the case.

So far CES recommends to the European Commission to learn from this bad company social dialogue management and go on examining the existing directive and to propose possible amendments.

Today, information and consultation in transnational companies is a right in 28 Member States. More than 1200 European Works Councils are established, which amounts to 19 millions of workers represented at supra-national level.

European Works Councils have proven vital to the development of transnational industrial relations. They help reconcile economic and social objectives within the Single Market. In particular through the decisive role they play in anticipating and managing change responsibly, they allow for prevention or mitigation the negative effects of restructuring.

Now it is time to add new rules into the EWC agreement in order to give more power to their consultation and information. Put some more obligation to companies to follow the rules and some control bodies that can have the possibility to sanction companies where such rules are not strictly followed can be of help.

It is time to find a solution to overcome the EWC members non disclosure agreement that prevent them to debate with local unions and workers issues discussed during EWC.

In addition in some countries (i.e. France) there are some law proposals that would allow the consultation via video and/or call conference: the importance to be face to face among union members with company delegates it is crucial to the discussion. This is remarked from all the countries where also having time enough for members for a briefing pre meeting and a de brief post meeting is vital for the success of a EWC session. EWC consultation can't be sacrificed simply onto company cost cutting.

Thomas Handel – member of European Parliament – in his speech underlines how much unions pressure against different parliament members regarding social dialogue is fundamental as only acting onto people that issue rules can help in changes rules. Unions MUST go on in making so much pressure.

In conclusion, gathered all considerations from the forum, CES declares that will work until the end of 2016 in order present the request for a revision of directive or going ahead and exploit better the present directive. Final decision will be presented at that time.

Attendees of the forum were European Union members.

From FABI was present Monica Brugnoli, also member of EWC of Barclays.

Milan, September 18th 2015