



30 years after 'Val Duchesse': Commission gives a new impetus to the social dialogue

Brussels, 30 January 2015

Tomorrow marks the 30th anniversary of the launch of the cooperation with European Social partners at Val Duchesse in 1985. The launch of the social dialogue aimed to involve the European social partners in the internal market process. Three decades later, to give a new impetus to social dialogue at EU level and contribute to a competitive and fair economic recovery, the European Commission will hold a high level event on the 5th of March with leaders of European and national employers' and workers' organisations.

Vice-President for the Euro and social dialogue, Valdis Dombrovskis, commented: "*To progress on the European social model, the Juncker's Commission is bridging economic and social policies. A well-functioning social dialogue is a key component for successful design and implementation of reforms that are needed for increasing the competitiveness of our economies as well as for creating more jobs. Building on the past achievements, we should now work on improving the quality of the social dialogue at the EU level.*"

Marianne Thyssen Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, skills and Labour Mobility commented: "*Social dialogue is a prerequisite to make our Social Market Economy work. Well-developed structures have been put in place at EU level, resulting in very concrete achievements. We want to build on what has been achieved over the past decades and give social dialogue a fresh impetus. We need a stronger involvement of social partners to develop adequate responses to the main challenges we are facing in Europe. I therefore look forward to the high level event on the 5th of March, which will bring together leading representatives from the Commission and social partners at European and national level.*"

The European social dialogue is now well established:

- European tripartite social dialogue, between European institutions and employers' and workers' representatives, takes place within the Tripartite Social Summit for Growth and Employment, established in March 2003, as well as the dialogues on macroeconomics, employment, social protection and education and training.

- European bipartite social dialogue, between the European employers' and trade union organisations, takes place within the cross-industry social dialogue committee and 43 sectoral social dialogue committees, the latter covering in total more than 75% of Europe's workforce.

With a view to strengthening social dialogue, the Commission will seek, together with the social partners, to ensure a more substantial involvement of social partners in EU governance, in EU policy making and to support the functioning of industrial relations and social dialogue in the Member States.

These themes will be addressed at the high level event of 5 March by the Commission, represented by President Juncker, Vice-President Dombrovskis and Commissioner Thyssen and leaders from social partners organisations at EU and national level.

Background

Vice-President for the Euro and social dialogue, Valdis Dombrovskis, and commissioner Thyssen had a first meeting with European social partners in November (see [STATEMENT/14/1884](#)). It was agreed then to hold a high level event in spring 2015, *30 years after the cooperation with European social partners was launched at Val Duchesse in 1985.*

For more information

- [Social dialogue](#)
- Follow Marianne Thyssen on [twitter](#)
- Subscribe to the European Commission's free e-mail [newsletter on employment, social affairs and inclusion](#)

Press contacts

[Tove ERNST](#) (+32 2 298 67 64)

[Christian WIGAND](#) (+ 32 2 296 22 53)

General public inquiries:

[Europe Direct](#) by phone [00 800 67 89 10 11](#) or by [email](#)