

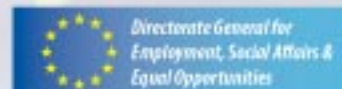


Croke Park Conference Centre

information consultation

IN IRISH WORKPLACES

21st & 22nd June, 2010



The conference is part of a European Commission funded project which is led by CITUB, the Bulgarian Trade Union Confederation, in which Congress is participating.

Involving workers in company decisions not only represents an important element of the European Social Model but also makes good economic sense in modern economies. There is a strong link between information, consultation and proper respect for the right to collective bargaining.

Collective bargaining is a formal process that involves negotiation, consultation and the exchange of information between employers and workers, the end goal being an agreement that is mutually acceptable to all parties. Proper respect for the right to collective bargaining needs proper respect for information and consultation rights.

This conference explores a number of dimensions of the information and consultation process, infrastructure and legal framework in the context of elaborating on trade union rights from a national and EU perspective.

Day 1 - 21 June

15.30 Opening and Welcome

Chair: *Esther Lynch*, ICTU
David Begg, General Secretary, ICTU

László Andor, Commissioner, Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (tbc)
THE VISION FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS IN THE EU IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPE 2020

Lucy Fallon-Byrne,
National Economic and Social Development Office
INITIAL RESULTS FROM THE FORTHCOMING NATIONAL WORKPLACE SURVEYS

16.30 Coffee

17.00 Collective Bargaining a Fundamental Human Right

We examine the implication of the ratification of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the recent case law of the European Court of Justice and the International Labour Organisation which all have significant implications for Ireland's legal system and for proper respect of trade union rights.

Keith Ewing,
Prof of Public Law, King's College, London

Séamus Dooley,
Irish Secretary, NUJ

Maurice Manning,
Irish Human Rights Commission (tbc)

Tony Kerr, UCD School of Law

19.00 Dinner in the Croke Park Hotel

Day 2 - 22 June

Rights to information and consultation are regulated by a number of national and EU legal instruments.

Sections 25 and 26 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 provides for consultation between employers and employees to help ensure co-operation in the prevention of accidents and ill health.

15.6 million workers across the EU have the right to information and consultation on company decisions at European level through their EWCs. The Works Council Directive (94/45/EC) applies to companies with 1,000 or more employees, including at least 150 in two or more Member States.

European Companies (SE) and Cooperative Societies (SCE) built a cornerstone in workers' involvement at transnational level. The SE Directive (Directive 2001/86/EC) linked to the SE statute (Regulation EC 2157/2001) has introduced for the first time participation rights for workers at board level. Almost 600 companies are registered across the member States.

What are the experiences of workers and their unions? We examine the practices and procedures in today's conference sessions.

09.00 Information and Consultation Rights at the EU level - EWCs and SEs

Chair: *Frank Vaughan* ICTU

Liam Berney Industrial Officer, ICTU
IMPLEMENTATION OF EU INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION DIRECTIVES IN IRELAND

Volker Telljohann IRES, Emilia-Romagna, Italy
European Works Council and the European Company Statute:
THE ROLE OF INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION

Ed Thompson Member AVIVA European Consultation Forum
CASE STUDY: HOW DO EWCs WORK IN PRACTICE?

10.30 Coffee

11.00 INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION RIGHTS AT THE ENTERPRISE LEVEL: Worker Directors, Works Councils, Health and Safety

Kevin P O'Kelly Associate Researcher, ETUI
RESULTS OF THE INFORMIA SURVEY

Pat Compton Worker Director, An Post
THE ROLE OF WORKER DIRECTORS

Martin O'Halloran, Chief Executive,
Health and Safety Authority (tbc)
INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION IN OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH AND SAFETY

12.45 Open Discussion

13.15 Closing remarks *Esther Lynch*,
Legal & Social Affairs Officer, ICTU

13.30 Lunch and close of conference