

Tripartite Social Summit for Growth and Employment
Brussels, 29 October 2009

Speaking note Carl Cederschiöld
CEEP President

1. The sky under which we are meeting today is certainly bluer than last spring, but still not blue enough. There are clear indications of a second round of crisis effects. And there is still no readily available crisis concept to face it: Monetary policy has largely exhausted its room for manoeuvre. Fiscal balances have already been affected far beyond agreed limits, and there is no consensus on how income policy should be handled. In a nutshell: the macro-economic tool box is rather empty.
2. Therefore, the answer must be found elsewhere, namely in structural reforms and long term goals. Public employers therefore call for emergency rescue measures for specific sectors of the economy to be phased out. Public services' providers are performing during this crisis both as stabilisers of the economy and of labour markets. We provide the infrastructure for private business prosperity but we cannot keep this on if extra pressure on public budgets is maintained.
3. In this context, we echo colleagues that call for a swift ratification and implementation of the Lisbon Treaty. This will be a fundamental step also for CEEP whose

long-standing demand is finally recognised at the highest level of European Legislation: I am referring to the insertion of Services of General Economic Interest in the horizontal provisions of the Treaty. We are very glad that this is accompanied by the recognition of the essential role and wide discretion of regional and local actors in providing, commissioning and organizing Services of General Economic Interest as close as possible to the needs of the users.

4. This acknowledges the importance of our way of “doing business”, namely by bringing the concept of solidarity into a highly competitive social market economy. It is upon this concept that CEEP is building its contribution to the EU 2020 vision.

In that regard, we are also looking forward to finalising with ETUC and our employers’ colleagues the joint recommendations on the Post 2010 Lisbon strategy. We will join BUSINESSEUROPE in stressing the central role that education should play in the new strategy to strive for closer connection between education systems and the needs of the labour markets. We are doing so through a new CEEP sectoral federation representing education employers at European level.

5. Finally, CEEP members are committed to pursuing their fight against climate change. We have recently awarded a CEEP-Corporate Social Responsibility label to a German regional energy company which invested one billion Euros to deliver 100% green electricity to their 600.000

customers. This could be an element, but a strongly needed business-friendly framework for reaching the 20% carbon reduction is still to be set. President Barroso's decision to set up a Commissioner for Climate Action is an important step into the right direction. The impact on "green jobs" creation should be at the centre of this portfolio.

However, CEEP feels that this is not enough, and calls again, as done since 2008, for the setting up of a consultative mechanism on climate change directly involving the European Social partners. It is too late for us to influence the Copenhagen Summit: We ask you not to make it too late for us to influence the implementation of the Summit results!