
CEEP RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE COMMISSION'S STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION GUIDELINES

On the 18 June 2014, the EU-Commission launched its public consultation on its Stakeholder Consultation guidelines.

Although the consultation does not include social partner consultation in accordance with articles 153-155, there is an interest for CEEP to make a short response to the consultation, pointing out the special stakeholder role and importance that CEEP has a European social partner.

CEEP points of view

- Stakeholder consultations and the way they are conducted are important.
- It is important that the Commission makes a thorough consideration of what kind of stakeholder consultation it chooses in every single question/issue. The target groups and relevant level (national, regional, local etc.) for the consultation should be better analysed than is currently the case. For this analytical work the Commission should seek the views of and support from the social partners (and other stakeholders) to find the right stakeholders for the different issues.
- CEEP regrets that nothing is said in the consultation document about the possibility of social partner consultation.
- CEEP and the other social partners have a special status –a special kind of stakeholder – given their roles in the labour market and capacities/abilities to negotiate and conclude collective agreements and other agreements and their status according to the Lisbon Treaty.
- EU social partners responses to Commission consultations should be treated according to their special role mentioned above. They cannot be treated as any other stakeholder/one stakeholder among many others.
- With the SPs' special role and capacity/ability described above it follows that they have a unique ability to contribute to employment and growth in Europe.
- The Commission should realise that there can be conflicts of interests between different stakeholders (i.e. social partners) on different consultation issues. These conflicts must be identified and understood for the Commission to be able to evaluate in a correct way, the responses received, but also to be able to pose the questions in the consultations in an appropriate/relevant way,
- The questions posed in the consultations are often too broad/ voluminous, demanding a very deep knowledge and considerable research for the respondents, at both EU- and national level with short, sometimes unrealistic, deadlines.