

(SG)

Ares (2017) 697237

**From:** (EMPL)  
**Sent:** 23 September 2015 08:17  
**To:** SERVOZ Michel (EMPL); CURELL GOTOR Jordi (EMPL); HERMANS Stefaan (CAB-THYSSEN); PASERMAN Ruth (CAB-THYSSEN); (CAB-THYSSEN)  
**Cc:** (EMPL); (EMPL); (EMPL); (EMPL); (EMPL); EMPL A2 UNIT; EMPL D DIRECTOR; (EMPL); (EMPL); (EMPL); OLSSON Stefan (EMPL); ECKERT Detlef (EMPL); (EMPL); (EMPL); (EMPL); (EMPL); (EMPL); (EMPL); EMPL BRIEFINGS  
**Subject:** Flash: meeting between Cssi Thyssen and (Business Europe)

Dear all,

You will find attached a flash of the meeting which took place on 21/09 between Commissioner Thyssen and (Business Europe).

**Participants:**

- Commission: Commissioner Thyssen, (EMPL) and (EMPL)
- Business Europe: (EMPL) and (EMPL)

Following the interventions of the Commissioner, BE reacted to the following issues:

**1 – State of the Union and pillar of social rights**

- Benchmarks: BE expressed its support for the Open Method of Coordination but noted that the choice of benchmarks was crucial and that the autonomy of social partners should be respected (for domains under their responsibility: cf. minimum wages). BE reckoned that childcare is a relevant issue for a benchmark.

**2 – 5 Presidents report, economic governance and flexicurity**

- BE was keen to see a coming back to the flexicurity approach to help finding the right balance between flexibility and security.
- BE was cautious regarding the development of a macroeconomic stabilisation fund. It stressed that while it shouldn't lead to a transfer union, more transfer of sovereignty will be needed (incl. Treaty changes).

**3 – Labour mobility and Posting of workers**

- BE shared the Commissioner view on the need for clarifying the rules on social security coordination (unemployment benefits, long-term care and family benefits) notably by codifying the Court rulings (i.e. the most recent ones) and for limiting the risks of abuse (cf. family benefits).
- BE insisted that the posting of workers issue is essentially an enforcement matter requiring clarifications (and pretended that even in sectors like construction the employers are not advocating a reopening of the directive...).

**4 – Working time directive**

- BE pointed out that, despite the fact that they had already been consulted on working time, they expected to be consulted again if the Commission intended to come up with a new proposal (as circumstances have changed).

**5 – Skills**

- BE expressed their willingness to support the Commission initiative and enquired how. BE also made the link with the flexicurity approach and the issues of retraining/reskilling notably due to the digitalisation of the economy.
- BE pointed out that some instruments are too limited - such as ESCO - and the need for further improvements notably in terms of identification of skills needs and vacancies, and asked for further work to be done notably by ESTAT.
- BE stressed the relevance of the local/regional level for the identification of skills needs while the EU level could focus on the learning side (instead of trying to design an all-encompassing single instrument...).

**6 – Work-life balance**

- **BE indicated that their work (cf. the theme is one of the 8 priorities of their SP joint work programme) and the Commission work should be "interlinked".**
- **BE advocated the development of flexible working arrangements over a career and cautioned about the reopening of the existing directives.**

#### 7 – Migration

- **BE referred to the statements of some national leaders from the employers organisations (FR, PL) welcoming the migrants and the need for a courageous/positive approach as regards their arrivals.**
- **BE indicated that the integration of these migrants should be feasible as many are well-qualified but that the language dimension should also be taken into account.**
- **BE indicated that the EU could develop transparency tools to facilitate the mutual recognition of skills (from third country nationals).**

#### 8 –Dedicated SP budget lines

- **BE reiterated its position regarding the call for proposals and the genuine involvement issue (BE shared a draft text).**