



CONFEDERATION OF INDUSTRY
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

REPRESENTING THOSE WHO CREATE VALUE

STRONGER TOGETHER

European Semester and Social Partners' involvement Czech Republic

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High Level Conference on European Social Dialogue

12 – 13 December 2013

European framework, but national content

The European Semester is not only about National Reform Programme and Convergence Programme:

- **A functioning tripartite/bipartite dialogue**
- **Involvement of the social partners in day-to-day work on national policies and strategies**
- **Involvement of the Social Partners in a legislative process**
- **Consultation and information on European Affairs**
- **European structural funds and operational programmes**

Semester process learning and understanding

Vis-à-vis staff/members:

- Awareness raising
- Capacity
- Coordination
- Engagement
- Ownership

Vis-à-vis administration:

- Involvement in the set-up structures
- Pro-active approach
- Trust building
- Professional input

A broader European Semester Consultation System established

- **November** – AGS publication
- **December** – first contact with stakeholders (social partners, regions, municipalities, academics) on AGS priorities
- **January** – 1st Round Table/general discussion about the NRP
- **February** – 2nd Round Table – first written inputs
- **March** – drafting process in many steps
- **Mid-April** – last approval
- **End of April** – with Convergence programme sent to Brussels
- **May/June** – CSR assessment
- **September/October** – stock taking on CSR implementation

Social Partners involved but...

Administration:

- The whole process is in a hurry starting from bottom-up
- Ministries under the pressure
- Documents distributed at the last moment
- Government office in delay
- Willingness to incorporate comments and proposals of social partners is limited

Social partners:

- Low capacity to engage experts and to comment the documents
- Low preparedness
- Lack of co-ordination in the respective organisations themselves
- Lack of mutual consultation

The way forward:

Employers' recommendations

- To be involved **in the reform and legislative process** at the national level in a regular way.
- To enter into the European Semester **timely** influencing AGS recommendations and priorities
- **To be more pro-active during the NRP process:**
 - ✓ **Vis-à-vis relevant ministries** and to influence their first input
 - ✓ **To push Government Office** to table all documents in time and justify why the comments of the social partners are not respected
 - ✓ To organise regular **meetings with representatives of the Permanent Mission of the EU** in the country

Thank you for your attention
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