

SOCIAL REGULATION OF GLOBALIZATION

1) A LONG-TERM ADDITION TO THE G20 AGENDA

In 2011, the French Presidency of the G20 added the social dimension of globalization to the G20 agenda. The President of the French Republic asked Xavier Bertrand to arrange a meeting between the **G20 Labour and Employment Ministers** in Paris on 26 and 27 September.

In Cannes, the Heads of State acknowledged that it is essential for the social dimension to become a long-term addition to the G20 agenda. They decided:

- that a meeting of Labour and Employment Ministers would be held again in 2012 **under the Mexican Presidency**;
- that an **employment task force** would be put in place, bringing together international organizations, with the ILO and OECD at the forefront, and the social partners. It will place particular emphasis on youth employment.

2) CONCRETE DECISIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF GLOBALIZATION

At Cannes, the Heads of State committed to:

- **Putting employment at the heart of policies to restore growth and confidence.** The G20 employment task force will help to achieve this;
- **Implementing nationally-defined social protection floors.** This commitment aims to guarantee, in each State, minimum social benefits such as access to healthcare, guaranteed income for the elderly and disabled, benefits for dependant children and income security for the unemployed and working poor;
- **Promoting the effective implementation of social and labour rights.** The Heads of State stated that their common goal was the ratification and implementation of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) eight fundamental conventions, and they supported the ILO's efforts to meet that objective;

■ **Strengthening the coherence of the action of international organizations** by attaching more weight to the ILO in the area of global governance. The Heads of State asked the international organizations to increase the coordination of their actions.

3) A DECISIVE STEP TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL DIALOGUE ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE

From the outset of the French G20 Presidency, **the President of the French Republic wanted the social partners to play a full part in its work.** The G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met with them on the morning of 26 September. The President of the French Republic received them in his capacity as President of the G20 on 2 November in order to seek their recommendations ahead of the Cannes Summit.

The French Presidency backed the organization of the L20 (Labour 20), the meeting of employees' representatives and the **B20** (Business 20), the meeting of business representatives, which were held in Cannes on 2 and 3 November. **The L20 and B20 adopted a joint statement** which was submitted to Xavier Bertrand by Laurence Parisot, Head of the Medef employers' union, and Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, and sent to the G20 Heads of State and Government.

The involvement of the social partners throughout the French Presidency, the work of the L20 and B20, and the joint statement from the L20 and B20 are testament to **the emergence, for the first time at G20 level, of genuine international social dialogue, the importance of which was highlighted by the Heads of State in their declaration.**