

John Monks visits DG MARKT



John Monks, the Secretary General of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), came to the DG MARKT building on 18 November to dialogue with over 80 colleagues from the various Directorates of the DG. The subject of Mr Monks' remarks was 'The Single Market: what do European workers expect?'

DG MARKT Director General Jörgen Holmquist, who chaired the session, welcomed the significant deepening of the relationship between ETUC and DG MARKT in recent years. ETUC's vision for the Single Market is for a 'social market economy'; in other words, for market opening to be accompanied by a strong social dimension. In this respect, it is interesting to recall that the Treaty of Lisbon introduced a new overall EU objective of a 'highly competitive social market economy' (Article 3 of the EU Treaty).

Describing himself as a pro-European integrationist, Mr Monks' remarks concentrated mostly on free movement of workers, free movement of services and free movement of capital. Mr Monks' overall view of the Single Market is that it is an essential part of the European project. However, the financial and economic crisis has significantly added to trade unions' concerns related to the Single Market.

Even if - in his view - markets are essential to democracy, it is clear that markets have failed over the past two years. Mr Monks also addressed the fallout on free movement of workers from the so-called 'Laval' ECJ judgement. Separately, he looked forward to the imminent full application of the Services Directive in the 27 Member States, recalling the fundamental role ETUC had played in its passage through the institutions in 2005 and 2006.

You can view a short interview with John Monks on DG MARKT's website, at:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/video-channel/interview_john_monks.htm

