

Transnational company agreements Legal effects

Evelyne Pichot, European Commission

Expert group on transnational company agreements

Brussels, 3 May 2011

Parties' intentions

Intentions of parties to transnational agreements vary As to the status and treatment of the text concluded:

- Declarations or policy orientation
- Guidelines for national/local consideration
- Contract between the parties
- Framework agreement to be implemented at national/local level
- Binding agreement producing direct legal effects



Present legal status

Present legal status of transnational agreements

- May differ from the parties' intention
- ❖ Is unclear (no norm, no case law)
- May be as an employer's unilateral commitment
- **❖** May vary from one country to another

Legal effects are conditional on the national framework applicable and depend in particular on

- The content of the agreement
- The signatories and their representativeness
- The procedure followed

Data protection issues to consider



National systems

What makes a collective agreement varies

- Signatory parties and representativeness
- Compliance with negotiating procedures
- Requirements as to substance
- **❖** Registration formalities,...

National rules differ in particular as to

- Link between company agreements and other norms and levels of social dialogue
- Application to all employees or affiliated members only
- Effects on individual working contracts



Issues



Parties to should be able to:

- Determine and control their legal effects
- **❖** In coherence with national norms

What are the practical and legal obstacles? What could be done?

