



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

Seventh meeting of the UfM High-Level Working Group on Employment and Labour and Seminar on female participation in the labour market

21-22 March 2018
Hotel Le Châtelain, Brussels

Working together for employment, employability and decent work

The two-day meeting of the High-Level Working Group (HLWG) will focus on two main agenda items: The implementation of the 2016 UfM Ministerial Declaration and the preparation of the 2019 Ministerial Conference. The meeting will be organised back to back with a seminar on "Female participation in the labour market", which will take place on the first day.

The implementation of the 2016 UfM Ministerial Declaration (the Roadmap on employment, employability and decent work)

The HLWG will discuss the concrete follow-up actions which have been put in place to implement the 2016 UfM Ministerial Declaration and discuss relevant development and initiatives by public authorities and social partners. These concern actions in the area of social dialogue, the social economy and a project on matching labour supply and demand (YouMatch). The meeting will also examine recent developments with regard to youth employment.

The 2019 Ministerial Conference

The second objective of the meeting is to kick off preparations for the next UfM Ministerial Conference, scheduled to take place in spring 2019. The discussions will cover the format, topic and deliverables of that Conference. In an interactive brainstorming session, the participants are invited to contribute to generating ideas and expressing their expectations. On the basis of this input, the preparatory process will be taken forward.

Female participation in the labour market

The first day of the meeting is dedicated to a seminar on "Female participation in the labour market". This answers to a request presented by the HLWG at its meeting in March 2017. The 2016 Ministerial Declaration repeatedly highlighted the structural challenges as regards the participation of women in the labour market and the various disadvantages faced by women and girls in the world of education, work and business. The seminar, which is part of the Roadmap of implementation, will shed light on the various gender gaps in the region and inform about the 2017 UfM Ministerial Conference on "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society", which devoted an important part to economic empowerment and labour participation. Good practices from southern Mediterranean countries and the EU will complete the discussion. Finally, it will be explored how to join forces between the UfM dialogues on the role of women in society and employment, employability and decent work, with a view to ensuring the best possible outcomes.



DAY 1

Draft agenda

Interpretation: Arabic-English-French

| Wednesday 21 March 2018 | Agenda item |
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| 08.30-09.00 | Registration and coffee |
| 09.00-09.30 | OPENING SESSION Welcome, Merhaba, Bienvenue Opening addresses <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Ms Nathalie Creste, Adviser international issues, European Commission, Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion– Mr Abdullah Aldahham, Assistant Secretary General for Technical Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Jordan– Mr Sudqi Al-Omoush, Deputy Secretary-General, UfM Secretariat |
| Seminar on female participation in the labour market Chair: Ms Laurence Païs, Deputy Secretary-General, UfM Secretariat | |
| 09.30-10.30 | FIRST SESSION Mind the gaps! Stocktaking of female labour participation in the southern Mediterranean countries <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Women at work- regional trends, Ms Yllka Gerdovci, Economic Empowerment adviser, UN Women– Women's economic participation in MENA Countries: The impact of legal frameworks, Ms Nicola Ehlermann, Middle East and North Africa-OECD Competitiveness Programme |
| 10.30-11.00 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11.00-12.00 | SECOND SESSION "Strengthening the role of Women in Society": The UfM Ministerial Conference in Cairo, 27 November 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Ms Fatiha Hassouni, Gender & Women Empowerment, UfM Secretariat |
| 12.00-12.45 | THIRD SESSION Good practice from southern Mediterranean countries: Women entrepreneurship <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Women entrepreneurship in the MENA region, Ms Neila Amara, UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation)– Egypt: Mr Amr A. Soliman, National Council of Women, Egypt |
| 12.45-14.00 | <i>Lunch</i> |

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| 14.00-15.30 | <p>FOURTH SESSION</p> <p>Women's economic participation and employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Morocco: Providing support to women's employment Mr Samir Ajaraam, Division for the Promotion of Employment, Ministry of Labour and Occupational Integration, Morocco – Tunisia: Supporting female participation in the labour market Ms Hayet Khaled, Ministry of Women, Family and Children, Tunisia – Israel: Integrating Arab Women into the Labor Market – Challenges, Successes & Best Practices, Ms Ella Eyal Bar David, Ministry of Labour, Israel |
| 15.30-16.15 | <p>FIFTH SESSION</p> <p>Promoting gender equality in the public administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Empowering women in the European Commission: Mr Stefan Tostmann, Acting Diversity Adviser, Head of Unit Performance Management, Directorate-General for Human Resources, European Commission – EU Social partners initiatives to promote gender equality in the public administration: Ms Nadja Salson, European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) and Ms Teresa Siles Suárez, European Public Administration Employers (EUPAE) |
| 16.15-16.45 | <i>Coffee</i> |
| 16.45-18.00 | <p>SIXTH SESSION</p> <p>Promoting gender equality and work-life-balance in the EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality 2016-2019, Ms Outi Niiranen, Unit for Gender equality, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission – The Work-Life-Balance package: a proposal to increase the labour market participation of women, Ms Efi Anastasiou, Unit for Social Investment Strategy, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission – "A Toolkit for Gender Equality in Practice" by the European Social Partners, Ms Cinzia Sechi, European Trade Union Confederation, and Ms Carlotta Astori, CEEP, the European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services and Services of general interest |
| 18.00-18.15 | <p>Roundup and closing of the seminar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr Sudqi Al-Omouh, UfM Secretariat – Mr Abdullah Aldahham, Jordan – Ms Nathalie Creste, European Commission |
| 18.30 | <i>Networking Cocktail at the Hotel Le Châtelain</i> |
| 19.00 | <i>Dinner for all participants at the Hotel Le Châtelain</i> |

DAY 2

Draft agenda

Interpretation: Arabic-English-French

| Thursday 22 March 2018 | Agenda item |
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| High-Level Working Group on Employment and Labour Co-Chairs: Ms Nathalie Creste, European Commission, and Mr Abdalla Awad Aldham, Jordan | |
| 09.00-09.15 | OPENING SESSION Welcome back |
| THE UFM ROADMAP ON EMPLOYMENT, EMPLOYABILITY AND DECENT WORK, 2017-2019 – REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS | |
| 09.15-10.45 | FIRST SESSION – Recent developments on Social Dialogue: Social Partners (ATUC, ETUC; BusinessEurope, BusinessMed) – Recent developments on the Social Economy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The TAEX regional seminar on Social Economy & Social Enterprise Policy (14-15 November 2017); Mr Jean-Paul Tricart ○ The regional programme to enhance the Social Economy Ecosystem in the Southern Neighbourhood; Ms Heinke Veit, Programme Manager, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations – The UfM Regional Index for Employment Programs Mr Hamed El Etreby, UfM Secretariat |
| 10.45-11.15 | <i>Coffee</i> |
| 11.15-12.45 | SECOND SESSION – Project YouMatch: Ms Lisa Walter, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) – The challenge of Youth employment and NEETs in the southern Mediterranean countries: recent developments Ms Iwona Ganko, Labour Market Specialist, European Training Foundation – Outlook: Future initiatives to implement the 2016 UfM Ministerial Declaration |
| 12.45-14.15 | <i>Lunch</i> |

| THE FOURTH UFM MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR (2019) | |
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| 14.15-16.00 | <p>THIRD SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Introduction by the Commission – Brainstorming session: Format, Topics, Declaration, Deliverables (parallel group work¹) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conference theme: key topics and possible input ▪ Elements for the Ministerial Declaration and follow-up / implementing actions |
| 16.00-16.15 | <i>Coffee</i> |
| 16.15-17.00 | <p>FOURTH SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Feedback from the Brainstorming Session By the <i>rapporteurs</i> – Next steps and timeline |
| 17.00-17.15 | Closing remarks |

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¹ No interpretation for this agenda item; working languages: English and French