

“EUROPE: Green and Digital! Also social?”

Workshop Network Social Europe Baden-Wurttemberg 23 febbraio 2022

Good morning to everybody,

I bring greetings on behalf of CGIL CISL and UIL Lombardia, the 3 trade union confederations in Lombardia. We are honoured to take part in this initiative and would like to extend a warm thanks to the “Network Social Europe Baden-Wurttemberg”, to all the colleagues of DGB Baden-Wurttemberg and in particular to the colleague Katrin Distler for inviting us.

We are honoured to give our contribution, given that today’s initiative is part of the Conference on the Future of Europe, an extraordinary opportunity to promote and continue a participatory process on the idea and the future that EU citizens want for the European Union. We strongly believe that the Conference on the Future of Europe is a moment in which all the European citizens, social partners, civil society organizations have to express their voices in order to become again leading actors of the EU process.

Also on the specific issues of the today’s event, expressed by the “EUROPE: Green and Digital! Also social?”, our trade unions want must play an important role.

The International Community has long been committed to stepping up its efforts and investments to combat climate change and reach the development goals through an action plan that protects people, take care the planet and drives humanity to a sustainable prosperity.

Europe took the challenge of climate neutrality as an opportunity to relaunch economic, technological and social development. The transition will involve economic sectors and production chains, as well as implying new patterns of mobility, consumption, of which must be managed the social impacts.

Our regions, such as Baden-Wurttemberg and Lombardy, are regions that are already in the leading position on these issues. According to the GreenItaly 2021 report, Lombardy ranks first in Italy for the number of companies that have invested, or will invest within the year, in green technologies, almost 90,000 (ninety thousand) companies (89,784).

We have to pay attention on the economic risks for the involved sectors and the loss of employment for the workers. According to the European Environment Agency, the ecological transition in the European Union could bring 1 million new jobs by 2030, but could also cause between 500,000 (five hundred thousand) and 2 million new unemployed.

The issue of work, as described by Hannah Arendt as an experience of *opera e impresa*”, is still not considered in the debate related to the climate change.

Trade unions need to focus on the complexity of the transition process in terms of the implications of the decisions to stop certain types of production and of investments oriented towards innovative activities.

The role of trade unions in this case is to support people and workers, to promote community networks, Laudato Si says “social problems must be addressed by community networks”

We gotta introduce new and innovative protections tools to fight poverty and mitigate new social risks, such as reducing energy costs for the families.

And introduce specific policies to promote reskilling and upskilling for workers involved in the transition processes, and ensuring employability

At this time, trade unions, are asked for a broader vision that is able to look to the good of communities, and open up to a new future cultural challenge, to promote solidarity between generations, but also responsibility towards future generations.

The time has come to undertake ecological transition and deal with the technological transformation, that's why we consider very important the European Union's role and its contribution: the next generation EU fund and the European structural and investment funds

We must ensure that the recommendations of the European Commission on the social and labour aspects of the Fit for 55 plan are implemented throughout Europe and, above all, that the Action Plan for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights is put into practice.

As the European Trade Union Confederation also stressed, a critical element of these recommendations remains; climate policies - adopted through the concrete Fit for 55 package - should be accompanied by concrete legislative proposals on social and labour aspects. Adopting legislation but leaving it to the Member States to decide how to deal with the social impacts is a double standard and does not send the right signal to European citizens about the Union's commitment to protecting its workers and their rights.

We therefore need to make an even greater effort to ensure that no one is left behind .

Responding to the social challenges depends on the future of the European project, in which we wanna continue to invest

I wanna thank once again on behalf of the CGIL, CISL and UIL of Lombardy my colleagues and friends of the "Network Social Europe Baden-Wurtemberg" for the invitation and the opportunity to take part in this debate.

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