

# Ongoing activities in the field of employment and social affairs - update

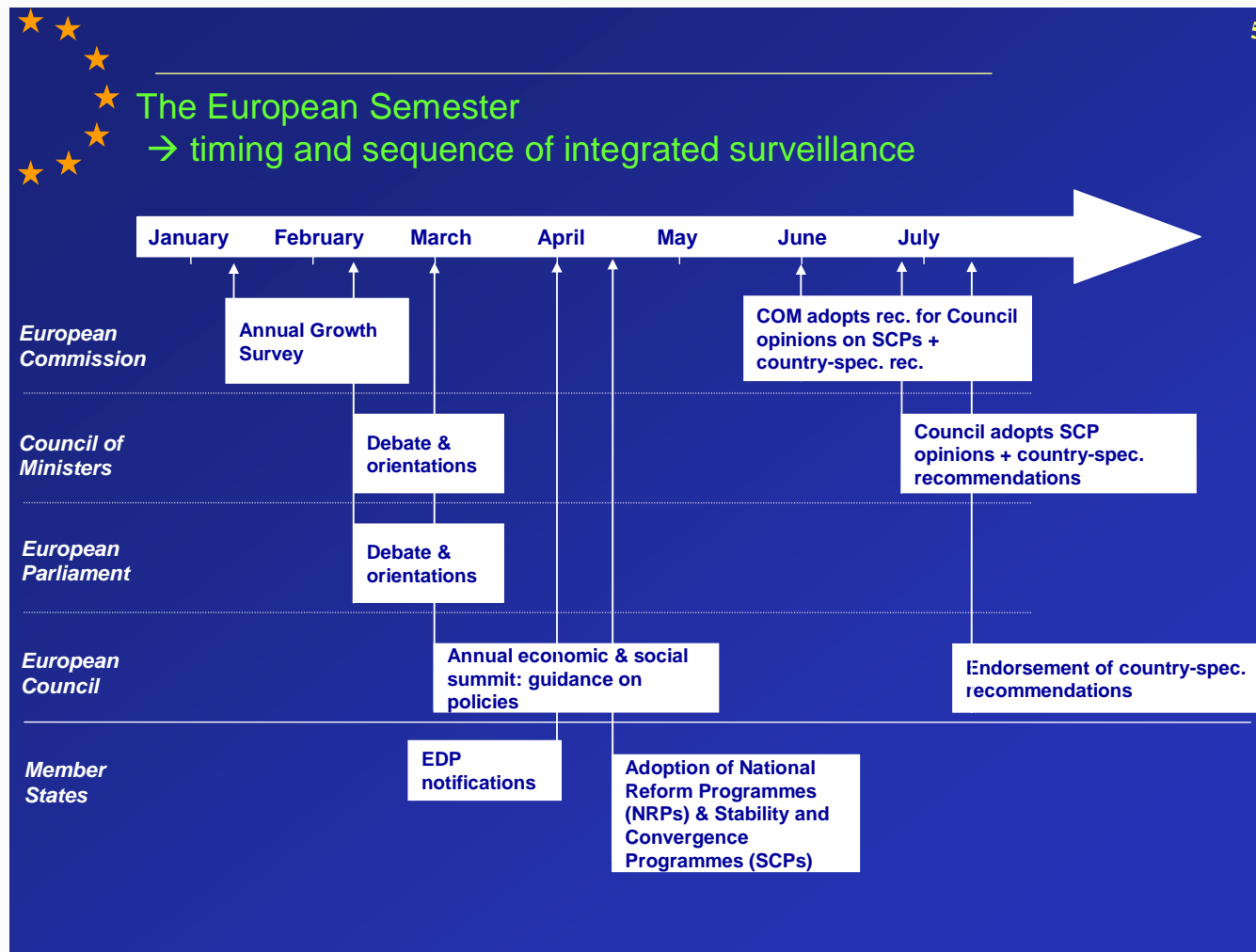
4 April 2011



European Commission

# Europe 2020 – European Semester

New model for EU economic governance



# Euro Plus Pact

- **Objective: “improving competitiveness and thereby leading to a higher degree of convergence reinforcing our social market economy”**
- **Adopted by European Council 24-25 March**
- **Policy commitments and monitoring (indicators) as regards:**
  - **Fostering competitiveness**
  - **Fostering employment**
  - **Enhancing sustainability of public finances**
  - **Reinforcing financial stability**
- **Member States to include (yearly) concrete actions in SCPs and NRPs, to be submitted in April and assessed at June Council**

# Social dialogue

- **Report on implementation of 2004 European social partners' Framework Agreement on Work-related Stress (24/02/2011)**
  - 50-60% of lost working days related to stress
  - Agreement has successfully triggered social dialogue and policy developments in the field of occupational stress in most EU countries → 19 EU countries: legislation, collective agreements
  - Some countries lagging behind
  - More info:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=995&furtherNews=yes>

- **Calls for proposals**

- VP/2011/001
  - First deadline 25 March: 66 proposals received
  - Second deadline 30 August
- VP/2011/002
  - Deadline 18 April

# Working Time Directive

- **Revision 2003 Directive:** 2-phase consultation of social partners
    - March 2010: opinion on need for EU initiative, on possible direction/scope
    - December 2010 (deadline end of February, extended to 25 March): opinion on options
- ⇒ Cross-industry social partners have expressed readiness to enter into negotiations, but quite divergent views as regards scope and content of review...

# Green Paper on pensions consultation

- 1700 responses
- Green Paper's approach and contribution to the pension debate broadly welcomed, in particular holistic approach which considers both economic and social aspects of pension reform
- Issues raised include:
  - Need for pension reforms to support sustainability of public finances and adequacy of pensions;
  - Higher effective retirement ages are necessary;
  - Pension tracking services to be encouraged and facilitated so as EU citizens can keep track of all their pension entitlements;
  - Recognition of the important role for the EU in the policy coordination of pension policies by facilitating surveillance, coordination and mutual learning between the Member States;
  - EU regulations on occupational pensions should be reviewed to reap the full benefits of the Single Market.
- Follow-up: White Paper third quarter 2011

# European Equal Pay Day

- First EEPD on 5 March 2011
- Extra time needed for women to bridge the 17.5% pay gap
- Builds on success of similar events in MS (ES, EL, DE, BE, PL, EE, AT, FR, UK, NL,...)
- To become annual event
- Objective: raise awareness regarding the need for action to close the gap



## Industrial Relations in Europe 2010

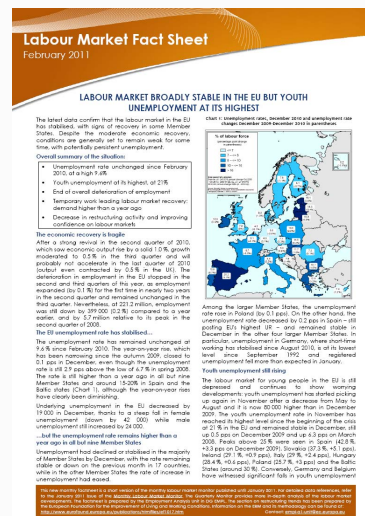
- Involvement of social partners in consultation/ negotiation helped minimise job losses during crisis in Europe (e.g.: short-time working schemes)
- Nonetheless, degree of consensus varies widely between countries/sectors
- Continuing trend towards further decentralisation of wage setting arrangements
- 2/3 of workers covered by collective agreement
- <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=329&langId=en&eventsId=326&furtherEvents=yes>



Monthly  
Labour Market  
Fact Sheet

Monthly labour market monitor

EU Employment  
and Social Situation  
Quarterly review



<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=990&furtherNews=yes>

# Public consultations

- Less red tape for citizens: Promoting the free movement of public documents and recognition of the effects of civil status documents → 30/04/2011
- Green paper on the future of VAT → 31/05/2011

[http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index_en.htm)