

**Commission Staff working Document
on the functioning of the EU sectoral
social dialogue committees**



Aims of the document

- Taking stock of the main achievements of the committees
- Revising their functioning
- Identifying possible improvements



EU sectoral social dialogue

- Pillar of our social model
- Tool for social resilience and good governance
- Strongly recognised in EU treaties
 - Joint committees (1951 ECSC Treaty)
 - Val Duchesse (1985)
 - Social protocol (1991)
 - Maastricht (1993)
 - Amsterdam (1997)
 - Lisbon (2009)



Legal basis

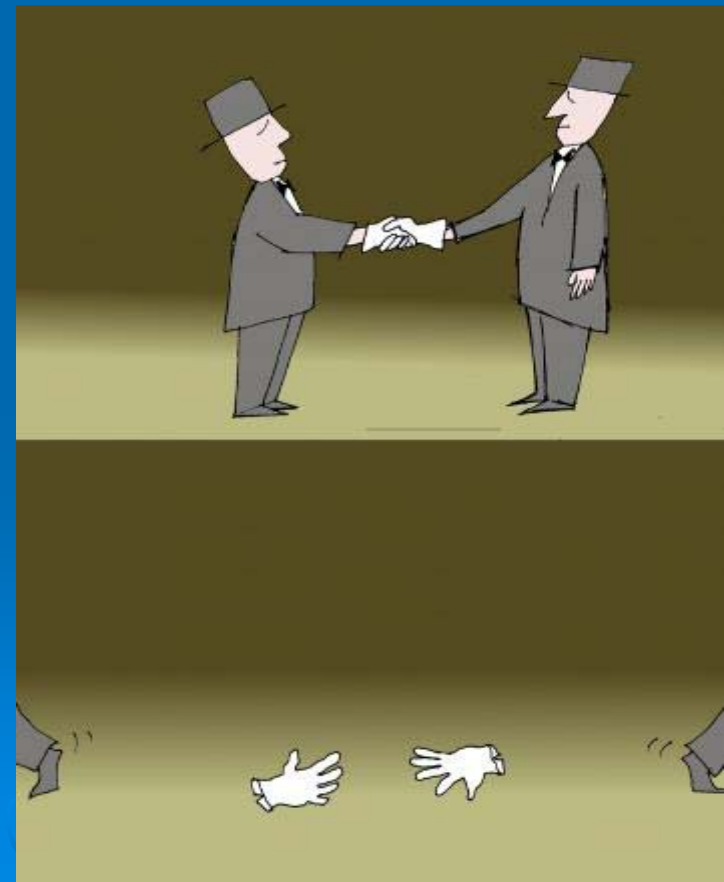
- Articles 154 & 155 TFUE
- New article 152 TFUE
- Article 9 TFUE
- Communication and Decision of 20 May 1998
 - Representativeness
 - Capacity to negotiate
 - Administrative capacity



The Committees

- 40 committees in 12 years
- More than 500 Texts
- 145 Mio workers covered
- Involved in the EU policy-making process

Contribute to the Lisbon
and EU 2020 Strategies



Dynamics and Flexibility

- 3 generations of sectoral social dialogue committees
- Common framework
- Testing the tool...



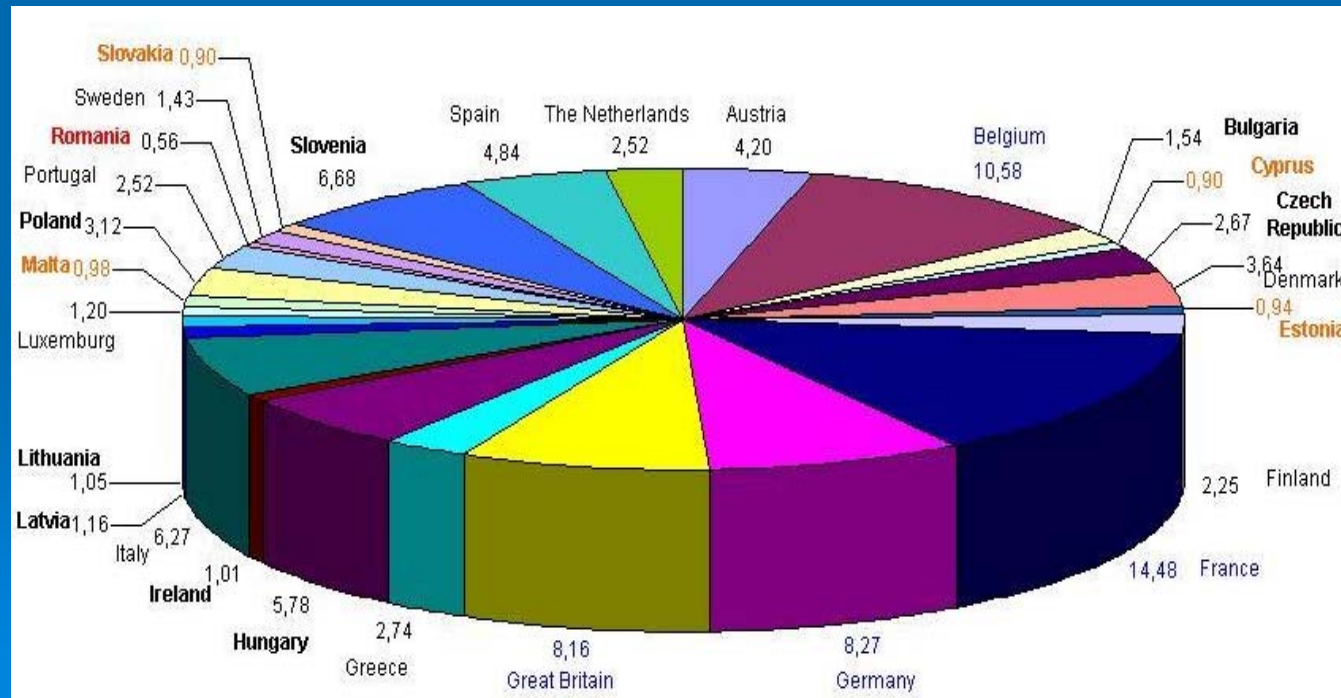
Diversity and relevance of the outcomes

- Typology of 2004
 - Agreements
 - Process-oriented texts
 - Joint opinions
- Directives and Autonomous agreements
- The overall functioning of the committees can not be assessed only by considering quantitative aspects....



Adapting to enlargement

Active involvement of all national partners is essential to ensure legitimacy of the process



Consultation and administrative capacity

- More and more article 154 consultations
- Involvement in the Impact Assessment
- European sector councils on jobs and skills
- EU sectoral social partners need to be better equipped in order to respond, in terms of staff, expertise, financial resources



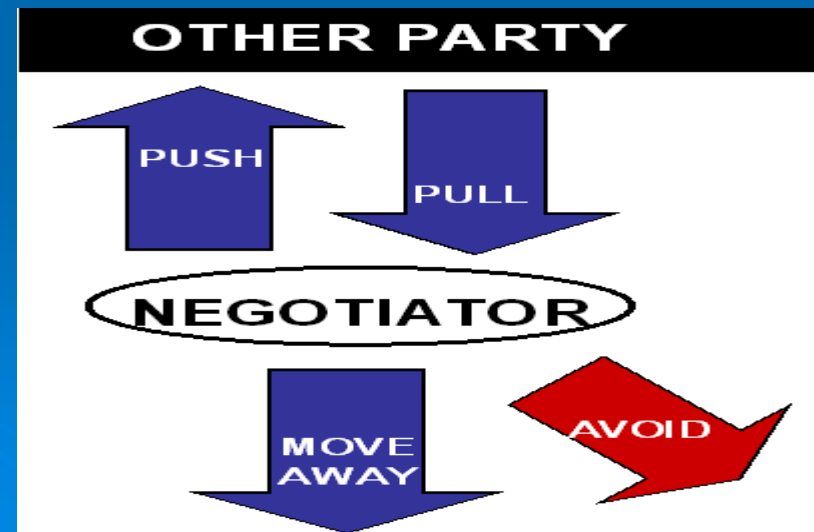
Negotiations and Capacity to negotiate

- EU sectoral social partners are co-legislators for social matters (“sharp injuries” directive, maritime convention directive....)
- Autonomous agreements (Silica Crystalline)
- Further potential



Integrating new players

- Big or small committees?
- Nace classifications
- Emergence of new actors
- Encouraging gender balance



Synergies and information

- Silica, third party violence, environmental public procurement
- Flow of information
- Role of the Commission



Effective delivery of the outcomes

- Low degree of centralisation
- Respecting national industrial relations systems
- Full and effective implementation of the outcomes
- Investing in monitoring processes (indicators)



Better use of the European funding

- 180 meetings a year, 3000 reimbursements



- Sound financial management : economy, efficiency and effectiveness
- Attention to agendas, information and expertise sharing, interpretation regimes, rooms disposal....

Conclusions

- Correlation between the EU and national sectoral social dialogue committees
- Pragmatic and inclusive approach
- Enhancing Administrative capacity at all levels
- Negotiation should be further exploited

