



**UK Presidency Conference
Social Dialogue – many voices, common vision**

**Cumberland Hotel, London
17 November 2005**

Recent EU enlargement has highlighted potential difficulties in circumstances where there are no or only weak institutions at national level to facilitate social dialogue. This has a potential impact on the national contribution to European Social Dialogue and on the implementation nationally of European Social Dialogue agreements.

The conference will provide an opportunity to share ideas and good practice by addressing practical ways to develop effective national structures, in particular where business comprises mainly small and medium sized firms, to enable a more effective contribution at the European level, as well as the more effective implementation of the results of the European social dialogue at the national level.

It will also consider how the effective application of agreed processes and procedures at the European level can re-enforce efforts within Member States – for example through support for capacity building or through encouraging a culture of participation through good consultation practice and formulating agreements using methodologies that facilitate implementation.

08:30	<i>Registration and coffee</i>	
09:00– 09:30	FIRST SESSSION – SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN AN ENLARGED EUROPE: ITS ROLE AND CHALLENGES Welcome: opening remarks Setting the scene – introductory remarks Strengthening social dialogue in Europe	Conference Chair Gerry Sutcliffe – DTI Minister Vladimir Spidla – European Employment Commissioner

09:30 – 11:00	<p>SECOND SESSION – EXPERIENCE OF THE CHALLENGES FOR DEVELOPING SOCIAL DIALOGUE MECHANISMS FOR EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION AT THE EUROPEAN LEVEL – PARTICULARLY WHERE BUSINESS COMPRISES MAINLY SMALL & MEDIUM SIZED FIRMS</p>	
09:30	- A Member State perspective	Hungary
09:45	- Perspective from ACAS partnership work new member States	ACAS
10:00	- Joint European Social Partner presentation of main results of joint project	UNICE/ETUC/CEEP/UEAPME (experts)
10:20	- Presentation of a Conference Paper	David Smallbone – Kingston University (London)
10:40	- Panel Q&A and discussion	Chair
10:55	- Preparation for Workshops	Chair
<i>1100 - 1130</i>	COFFEE	
1130 - 1300	<p>THIRD SESSION</p> <p>Parallel facilitated workshop sessions to exchange views and good practice including discussion of practical action/proposals identified in preliminary paper:</p> <p>WORKSHOP 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting mechanisms within member states to enable effective input to the European Social Dialogue – including bringing small firm managers and workers into the process 	<p>Each workshop will have a facilitator and invited discussants including from employer, employee, small firm bodies and other organisations and from Member States</p> <p>Facilitator:</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Industry Federation - Trade Union - Small Firm representative - Member State

	<p>WORKSHOP 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European social dialogue – taking the small firm dimension into account in Europe <p>WORKSHOP 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing Social Partner Agreements 	<p>Facilitator:</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Commission: Jackie Morin - [UEAPME project - Sector Dialogue[two sectors] - [Better regulation expert] - Small firm rep <p>Facilitator:</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UK social partner experience - New Member State social partner experience - Older Member State experience
13:00 – 14:15	LUNCH	
14:15 – 15:45	FOURTH SESSION	
14:15 – 14:45	Workshop feedback	Facilitators
14:45 – 15:45	<p>European Social Partner perspective on the key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – promoting mechanisms within Member States to enable effective input to the European social dialogue - including bringing small firm managers and workers into the social dialogue process – European social dialogue – taking the small firm dimension into account in Europe – implementing European Social Partner Agreements 	<p>Phillippe de Buck (SG UNICE) John Monks (SG ETUC) Hans-Werner Muller (SG UEAPME) Rainer Plassmann (SG CEEP)</p>

15:45	Discussion	Conference Chair
16:00	Summary of day's discussion	European Commission [Odile Quintin]
16:45	Closing remarks and forward look	Conference Chair
17:00	CONFERENCE ENDS	
17:00	<i>Informal drinks reception</i>	



This event has been prepared with the support of the European Commission