

## Conference

### *Croatia in EU: What do workers get and what do they lose?*

27 – 28 September 2011

Hotel Westin, Zagreb, room Panorama (17<sup>th</sup> floor)

## PROGRAMME

### Tuesday, 27 September 2011

- 8,30            **Registration**
- 9:00 – 9:50    **Welcome and opening address**
- **Dietmar Dirmoser**, director of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Zagreb Office
  - **Mladen Novosel**, president of the Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia
  - **Paul Vandoren**, ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Croatia
  - **Andrej Plenković**, state secretary for European integration, envoy of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia
  - **Ivo Josipović**, President of the Republic of Croatia
- 10:00–10:15    • **Introduction to panels: *Negotiations process and accession to the EU from the trade union perspective***, Ana Miličević Pezelj, Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia
- 10:15 –11:45    **1<sup>st</sup> panel, followed by discussion:**  
**Results of negotiations: gains and losses**  
*What do Croatian workers get and what do they lose (if only on short-tem) with the accession of Croatia to EU? Does the EU bring pressure for further liberalization of labour relations and reduction of workers' rights, or their strengthening and more efficient protection? Have we managed to protect national interests in our negotiations with EU - especially in sectors such as shipbuilding, agriculture, fisheries?*
- Vladimir Drobňak**, chief negotiator, **Vesna Pusić**, president of the National Committee for Monitoring the Accession Negotiations, **Augustin Palokaj**, Brussels correspondent for Jutarnji list newspaper, **Damir Grubiša**, Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb  
Moderator: **Ivana Dragičević-Veličković**, journalist of the Croatian Television
- 11:45-12:00    Coffee break

12:00-13:30 **2<sup>nd</sup> panel, followed by discussion: Expected economic and social impacts of the accession**

*What will be the economic benefits and costs of Croatian accession to the EU – not only on macroeconomic but also on sectoral and regional level? What will be the social consequences of the accession to EU and to single market – will the consequence of membership be further disintegration of society and amplification of differences in assets and income or greater equality?*

**Paul Stubbs**, Institute of Economics, Zagreb, **Višnja Samardžija**, Head of the Department for European Integration, Institute for International Relations, **Predrag Bejaković**, Institute for Public Finance, **Nenad Zakošek**, dean of the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb, **Dragan Bagić**, professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb

Moderator: **Mislav Togonal**, journalist of the Croatian Television

13:30–14:30 Lunch break

- 14:30-15:00
- **Introduction to the panel: Slovenian and Austrian experience of the membership in EU, Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia (ZSSS), Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB)**  
ZSSS: **Dušan Semolič**, president  
OGB: **Wolfgang Greif**

- 15:00–16:30
- 3<sup>rd</sup> panel, followed by discussion:**  
**Social Europe vs. Europe of the liberal capitalism**
- Does the EU serve primarily the interests of big capital which takes the most advantage of the single market, or it in the same degree promotes the interests of citizens and workers? Is it realistic to expect strengthening of the social dimension of EU in the near future, i.e. of common standards and policies in the area of social and labour relations?*
- Armindo Silva**, European Commission, DG for employment, social affairs and inclusion, director for employment, social legislation and social dialogue, **Jozef Niemiec**, Deputy General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation, **Emmanuel Julien**, Vice-President of BusinessEurope's Social Affairs Committee, **Siniša Zrinščak**, professor at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb
- 16:30–17:00

Moderator: **Jagoda Milidrag Šmid**, Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia

- Conclusions of the first day of the conference

- 9:00–9:15
- **Introduction to the panel: Strategic positioning of Croatia in the European Union, Darko Šeperić, Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia**
- 9:15-10:45
- 4<sup>th</sup> panel, followed by discussion:**  
**Strategic objectives of Croatia in the European Union**  
*After achieving long-term main strategic objective of Croatia – membership of the EU – there is a question of how we perceive our further future. In which direction does Croatia want to develop within the EU? Where do our comparative advantages lie in comparison to other Member States? How does Croatia plan to strategically use its membership in EU and European funds for its own development?*  
**Miroslav Božić**, director of the Directorate for Agricultural Policies and International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, **Hrvoje Dolenc**, State Secretary, Central Office for Development Strategy and Coordination of EU funds, **Davor Majetić**, Director General of the Croatian Employers' Association (HUP), **Branko Grčić**, dean of the Faculty of Economics in Split,
- Moderator : **Hloverka Novak-Srzić**, journalist of the Croatian Television
- 10:45- 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00-11:15
- **Introduction to the panel: Social and civil dialogue in EU, Metka Rosandić, former Slovenian member of the Workers' Group, European Economic and Social Committee and former President of the Western Balkans Contact Group**
- 11:15-12:45
- 5<sup>th</sup> panel, followed by discussion:**  
**Social and civil dialogue in Croatia and the European Union**  
*Will the membership in EU have a positive impact on the development of social and civil dialogue in Croatia and on the transparency and involvement of the public in public policy making? What is the European and what Croatian practice in those fields?*  
**Đuro Popijač**, Minister of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship, **Vitimir Begović**, head, Office for Social Partnership of the Republic of Croatia, **Ana Miličević Pezelj**, Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia, **Vladimir Ferdelji**, President of the HUP CRO-Industry, **Sandra Benčić**, House of Human Rights  
Moderator: **Hrvoje Krešić**, journalist of the RTL Television
- 12:45-13:45 Lunch break

13:45–14:00 • **Introduction to the panel: Euroscepticism in Croatia on the eve of accession to EU, Jelena Berković, Public relations assistant, GONG**

14:00-15:30 **6<sup>th</sup> panel, followed by discussion: Euroscepticism in Croatia: sources, consequences and responses**

*How come that almost all parliamentary parties in Croatia support membership in EU and that we have never had public discussion on the issue of membership, and the level of public support is just a little above 50 percent? Has the lack of argumented anti-European attitudes and their advocates led to prevailing euroscepticism which is based on prejudice and populist-nationalist attitudes?*

**Andrej Plenković**, State Secretary for European Integration, **Paolo Berizzi**, counsellor, EU Delegation to the Republic of Croatia, **Nebojša Blanuša**, professor at the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb, **Roko Šikić**, Association “I love Croatia – Not in EU”

Moderator: **Jelena Berković, GONG**

15:30– 16:00 **Conclusions and closure of the conference**