

Address by Dimiter Brankov, Vice president of the  
Bulgarian Industrial Association,  
Employers' delegate to the 107-th International  
Labour Conference, on behalf of Association of the  
Organizations of Bulgarian Employers  
Geneva, May 31 2018

Thank you Mr. President,

Allow me on behalf of the Bulgarian  
Employers to congratulate you with the election  
to this important position and to wish successful  
work to the 107th International Labour  
Conference.

The Director-General's report addresses the  
global social challenges and the role of ILO and its  
constituents focusing on the women at work as  
one of the ILO's Centenary Initiatives.

This approach enhances the role of ILO as a  
global forum and effective instrument for  
implementation of core international labour  
standards in achieving economic and social  
prosperity in our societies.

Bulgarian Employers have their role in improving the overall positions and performance of Bulgaria in relation to gender equality. I will only put the stress that

- Bulgaria takes 15-th place in 2017 moving from 25-th one in 2015 according to the EU gender equality index;
- Bulgaria takes the first place in EU having share of 26,5% of women employed in the IT industry while the average share for EU is 17.2% in 2017;
- Bulgaria also improved significantly its position from 41 to 18-th place out of 144 countries according to the Global Gender Gap Report in 2017.

Further, allow me to outline briefly the priorities of the Bulgarian employers as follows:

- 1.Reducing administrative burdens and speeding up the adoption of s. c. E-Government;

2. Entering into Eurozone and undertaking further steps for achieving the very high EU social standards. I will only mention that Bulgaria meets all relevant entry criteria having also less than 25% Government debt to GDP ratio;

3. Acceleration of the reforms in education and vocational training, healthcare and social security system and labour legislation. Bulgarian employers acknowledge the need to start a wide national debate for a better labour regulations in respond to new reality of the global economy and labour shortages we currently have. This includes also the adoption of flexible forms of work relevant to the specific employees and employers' needs;

We also put the stress for better regulation and call for more balanced and rational approach to s.c posted workers and mobility package to be adopted at EU level.

4.Improved procedures and access for third country nationals to Bulgarian Labour market;

5.Achieving agreement on the setting up of the minimum wage in accordance with the principles and criteria of Convention 131 taking into account the prevailing proportions to average and median wages in the EU.

The Bulgarian employers will actively participate in the social dialogue at all levels defending our positions, based on the provisions of the Constitution and applicable ILO conventions. We therefore rely very on the valuable experience of ILO and its constituents in settling similar cases.

Social dialogue and cooperation for economic and social prosperity have no alternative.

I am closing by assuring you that we are fully supportive to the agenda of the International

Organization of Employers and its efforts in achieving the ILO's goals and values.

Thank you for the chance to speak to this highly distinguished forum and for your kind attention.