

CONFERENCE

”Beyond Recovery: Foundations for Inclusive Growth in Latvia”

Agenda, 3rd June 2013

conference centre „Citadele”, Republikas square 2A, Riga

Latvia’s challenge is to achieve sustained growth over time that not only is broad-based across economic sectors, but includes a large portion of the workforce. With this in sight, the objective of the conference is to examine the social legacy of the crisis, particularly with regard to employment, and to look at how the country can return to high levels of employment and limit the adverse legacy of the crisis on social cohesion. From a policy perspective, there will be a focus on the public policy environment, but also on the role of the private sector.

9:30 Registration and Coffee

10:00 Welcome speech by Mr Valdis Dombrovskis, Prime Minister of Latvia

10:10-11:00 Main Challenges and the Contribution of the Conference

Ms Ilze Višule, Minister of Welfare of Latvia

Mr László Andor, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Ms Mamta Murthi, Country Director for Central Europe and the Baltic Countries, World Bank

Ms Inese Kalvane, Director of State Employment Agency of Latvia

11:00-12:00 Developments in Europe

Mr Robert Strauss, Head of Unit –Employment Analysis, European Commission’s DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion: *Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2012*

Ms Michelle Brock, Research Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Questions and Answers

12:00-13:00 Securing the Future: Labour Market Challenge and Responses - Results of the Study

Ms Emily Sinnott, Senior Economist, World Bank

Questions and Answers

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:00 Building an Inclusive Labour Market

Mr Henrik Braconier, Senior Economist, OECD: *Promoting inclusive growth: Challenges and policies*

Mr Mihails Hazans, Professor, University of Latvia/IZA: *Developments in the Latvian labour market*

Questions and Answers

15:00-16:30 European Approaches

Mr Jacob Soper, Senior Policy Analyst, UK Department for Work and Pensions: *Universal Credit: Making work pay*

Mr Marc Konings, Head of Department for Financing Policy within the Directorate General for Participation and Income Security, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment of the Netherlands: *Dutch unemployment insurance and social assistance system*

Ms Bettina Schattat, Director for Labour Market Policy and Unemployment Insurance, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Germany: *The impact of reforms on making work pay and activation*

Panel Discussion

16:30–16:45 Coffee Break

16:45-17:15 Effective Government Programmes and Their Impact

Ms Ana Revenga, Director for Human Development in the European and Central Asian region, World Bank

Questions and Answers

17:15-17:30 Conclusions and Way Forward

Mr Jiri Svarc, Head of Unit - Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania, European Commission's DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Ms Ana Revenga, Director for Human Development in the European and Central Asian region, World Bank

Ms Ieva Jaunzeme, State Secretary, Ministry of Welfare

Moderators:

Mr Pauls Raudseps, Journalist, Weekly magazine IR

Ms Ilze Zvīriņa, Deputy Director of Labour Market Policy Department, Ministry of Welfare/
Vice-Chair of EU Employment Committee