



**Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum  
Working Group 5 “Social & Labour Policies and Social Dialogue”  
10 July 2017, Brussels**

**Statement**

**Of the Working Group n°5 “Social and Labour Policies and Social Dialogue”**

**Of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum**

**July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Brussels**

We, members of the Working Group n°5 (WG5) of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, address the present Statement to the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, the EaP CSF Steering Committee, and the participants of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the EaP CSF, that will take place in Tallinn in October 2017.

We are convinced, that the realization of the common strategic tasks of the European Commission’s initiative “Eastern Partnership” is not possible without an effective solution of issues in the Social and Labour domains. The social-labour relations are not only the relations in the process of work, to improve the quality of the working life, but also embrace the whole life of people, and other related processes. The level of development of each EaP member-States determines the social orientation of their economic systems, as well as the degree of Democratization of their societies. Social dialogue, in this process, plays an important role.

We are ready to activate and develop further activities of our Working Group. Despite of the fact that this group has been created nearly 5 years ago (November 2012), the Working group 5 is the only EaP CSF Group without a corresponding official platform in the EaP.

Confirming our commitment to the previous appeal, adopted on July 4<sup>th</sup>, during the meeting of the WG5 in Brussels, we have once again remind the need

of forming the thematic platform n°5, that will be focusing on the Social-labour politics and the Social Dialogue.

In a near future, an alternative would be to create, in the process of the formation of the activities of the thematic platforms, an alternative sub-platform (panel) in the thematic platform n°2. We hope, that the understanding of our European partners – the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the European Commission – of the social and labour relations as the core value of the entire system of the relations of Society will help to adopt positives decisions for the creation of the platform.

For the advancement of the Social and Labour-related questions, the WG5 proposed to hold, during the 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the EaP CSF, a panel discussion about the role in the EaP and EU countries of Social dialogue, as well as about social and labour politics.

We call on our colleagues from the EESC to be active in the framework of the Assembly, in quality of stakeholders, experts, partners, for the future implementation in the EaP countries of the best European practices in the social and labour spheres. In order to intensify the collaboration between the EESC and the Working Group 5, it's important to consider these issues in new joint meetings, or hold joint events.

In the light of the foregoing, it is surprising to see the attempt by several members of the EaP CSF Steering Committee to doubt the necessity of the existence of the WG5. This proves their incomprehension of the unique value and importance of Social dialogue, and of the convergence of the social and labour politics of the EaP and the EU countries. Such attempts are unacceptable, insofar as it can lead to a significant restriction of the role and activities of the entire EaP Forum and provoke the withdrawal of some organisations, participants in WG5's activities, of the national platforms and therefore of the EaP CSF. And this concerns basically the most important organizations of the civil society (trade-unions, business associations, associations of NGOs), that have from tens of thousands of members to millions of members.

In order to provide a social-labour dimension to the development of the strategic plans of the EaP CSF, in particular, EaP CSF Policy brief Joint Staff Working Document EaP – Focusing on key priorities and deliverable –

Assessment and recommendations by the civil society, the Working Group 5 has created within its structure a Commission, in order to communicate with the relevant participants of the EaP CSF.

We call on the Steering Committee, the members of the Assembly of the EaP CSF to take into consideration the given statement and engage a discussion in the resolution of Social and labour-market related issues in the countries of the Eastern Partnership.

We are convinced, that together, with the representatives of the other Working Groups of the EaP CSF, we will increase the level of interest of the Civil Society organizations in the countries of the Eastern partnership in the social and labour issues, giving the possibility for a successful development of the social dialogue in our countries, and boost their integration with the European Union.