

BUSINESSEUROPE



**BUSINESSEUROPE**  
**How are we active in**  
**social affairs?**

# BUSINESSEUROPE: 39 members in 33 countries

							 Confederation of Danish Industry
Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark	Denmark
							
Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Iceland
							
Iceland	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Norway
							
Poland	Portugal	Portugal	Rep. San Marino	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain
							
Sweden	Switzerland	Switzerland	The Netherlands	Turkey	Turkey	United Kingdom	



# What is BUSINESSEUROPE?



- ✓ Is the Confederation of European business, representative of more than 20 million small, medium and large companies
- ✓ Social partner

## Mission

- ✓ „Actively promote and represent business in Europe“
- ✓ „Advocate favourable and competitive business environment to foster sustainable economic growth“

## Purpose

- ✓ Influence EU policies to create a business-friendly environment

## Pillars

- ✓ Members FIRST
- ✓ Staff: about 45 persons
- ✓ Supporting network of 22 companies (AS group)
- ✓ Alliance for a Competitive European Industry
- ✓ European Employers Network



# BUSINESSEUROPE: Policy priorities

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- 1. Implement the reforms for growth and jobs**
- 2. Integrate the European market**
- 3. Govern the EU efficiently**
- 4. Shape globalisation and fight all kinds of protectionism**
- 5. Promote a secure, competitive and climate-friendly energy system**
- 6. Reform European social systems to respond to global challenges**



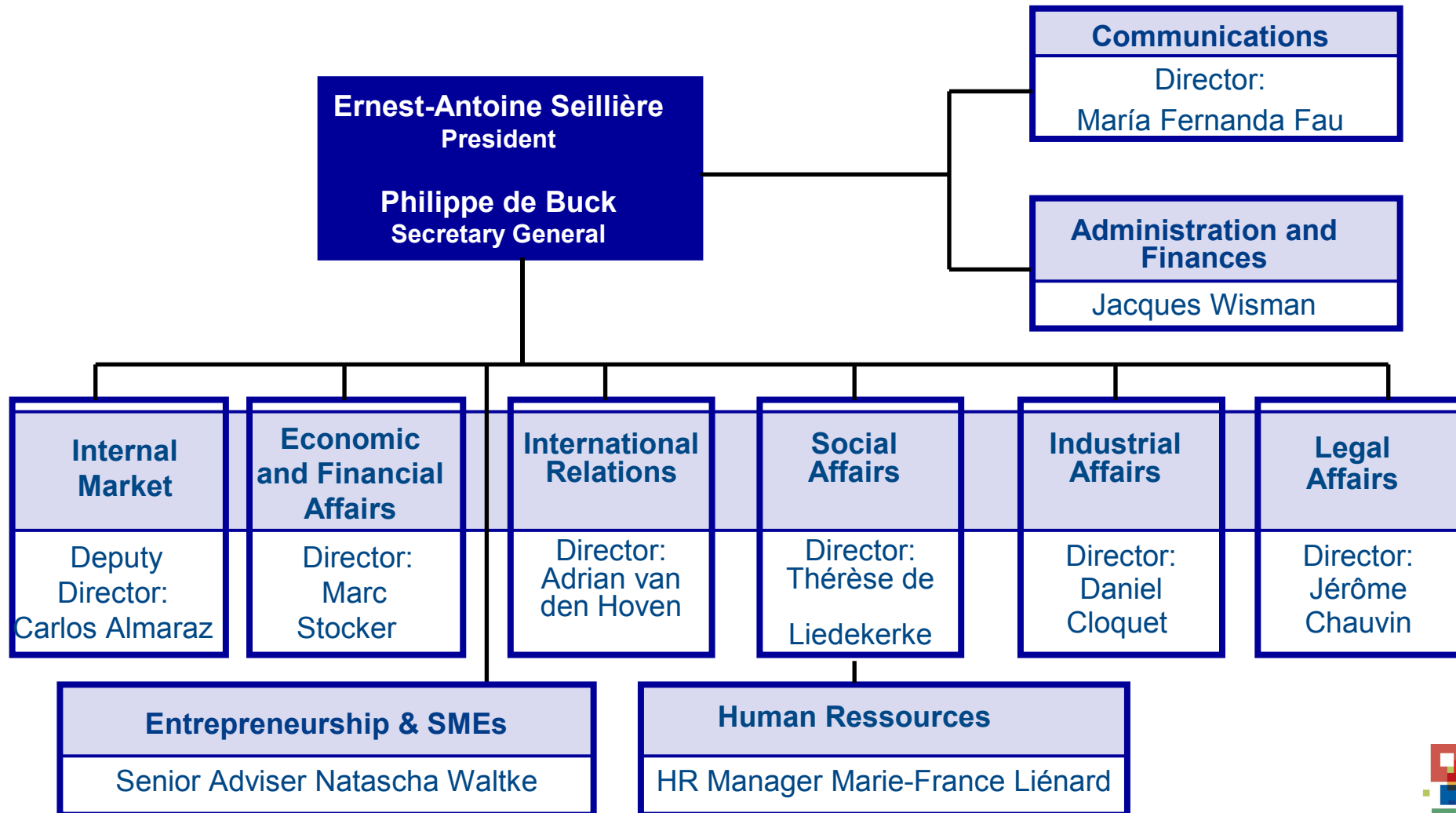
# BUSINESSEUROPE: Internal governance

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- Statutory bodies with member federations at all levels
  - Council of Presidents / Executive Committee / Executive Bureau / DPs
- Policy Committees: Legal Affairs, Economic and Financial Affairs, Entrepreneurship & SMEs, Industrial Affairs, International Relations, Social Affairs, Internal Market
- Working groups of experts
- Projects for horizontal issues



# BUSINESSEUROPE: Organigramme



# **BUSINESSEUROPE: Action in social field**

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- ✓ **Lobby**  
i.e. unilateral activities to influence European Commission, Parliament and Council
  
- ✓ **Social dialogue**  
i.e. bipartite work by the social partners, whether or not prompted by the Commission's official consultations based on articles 138 and 139 of the Treaty
  
- ✓ **Tripartite concertation**  
i.e. activities of advisory committees and official consultations in the spirit of articles 138 and 139 of the Treaty



# **EU social policy developed in 4 stages**

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## **1958 - mid 1980s**

- very limited EU competences in social policy
- no social dialogue

## **mid 1980s - 1991**

- Single market, health and safety legislation with QMV, intensive legislative activity
- social dialogue starts

## **1991 - 2000**

- preparation for Euro, Maastricht treaty
- first legally binding agreements between social partners

## **2000 - today**

- employment title in Treaty, Lisbon strategy, open method of coordination
- diversification of tools of social dialogue





# European social legislation

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**Approx. 400 social texts adopted since 1958 (240 legal acts + 160 political declarations)**

- ✓ **Areas covered: free movement of workers, health and safety, working conditions, information and consultation, social protection**
- ✓ **Key texts for social relations in companies: directives on collective redundancies, on posting of workers, on transfer of undertakings, on European works councils, on information and consultation, on European company statute**
- ✓ **Key texts on employment conditions: gender equality directives, anti-discrimination directives based on article 13, working time directive**



# **EU social policy agenda in 2008**

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- ✓ **Flexicurity debate**
- ✓ **EWCs**
- ✓ **Reconciliation of professional, private and family life**
- ✓ **Mid-term review of EU social agenda**
- ✓ **2008 EU year on intercultural diversity**
- ✓ **Revision of working time directive**
- ✓ **Temporary agency work directive**
- ✓ **Supplementary pension rights**



# EU Social Dialogue - structure

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- Representing European workers

- **ETUC** – European Trade Union Confederation;
- Established in 1973;
- 81 member organisations in 36 countries;
- 60m members;
- 12 European Industry Federations;
- Eurocadres (professional & managerial staff)
- FERPA (retired & older people)

- Representing European employers

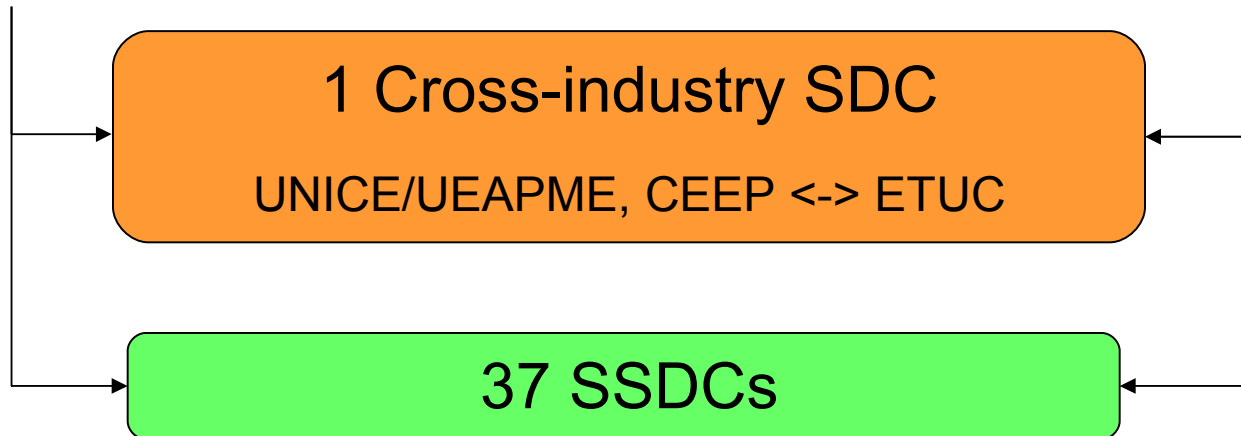
- **BUSINESSEUROPE** – the Confederation of European Business;
- Established 1958;
- 39 federations from 33 countries;
- More than 20m companies;
- **UEAPME** – European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises);
- **CEEP** – European Centre of Enterprises with Public Participation and of Enterprises with General Economic Interest



# EU Social Dialogue - structure

EMPLOYERS

TRADE UNIONS



- |                   |                     |                   |                      |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Agriculture       | Electricity         | Mines             | Shipbuilding         |
| Audiovisual       | Footwear            | Personal services | Sugar                |
| Banking           | Furniture           | Postal services   | Tanning and leather  |
| Chemical Industry | Horeca              | Private security  | Telecom.             |
| Civil aviation    | Inland waterways    | Railways          | Temporary work       |
| Cleaning industry | Insurance           | Road transport    | Textile and clothing |
| Commerce          | Live performance    | Sea fishing       | Woodworking          |
| Construction      | Local & region gov. | Sea transport     | .....                |



# EU Social Dialogue - results

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from 1986 to 2006: more than 60 joint initiatives

- ✓ **6 Framework agreements**
  - ✓ **3 agreements implemented through EU Directive: on parental leave (1995); on part time work (1997); on fixed term contracts (1999)**
  - ✓ **3 voluntary agreements: on telework (2002); on work-related stress (2004); on harassment and violence at work (2007)**
  
- ✓ **2 Framework of actions on lifelong competence development (2002); on gender equality (2005)**
  
- ✓ **more than 50 joint Reports, Recommendations, Declarations, Opinions, Compendia of good practices etc.**
  
- ✓ **October 2008: Joint labour market analysis**



## **EU social dialogue 2006-2008**

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- ✓ Contribution to and promotion of growth, jobs and the modernisation of the EU social model
- ✓ Reinforcement of social partners autonomy
- ✓ Focus on Europe's major economic and social challenges



## **EU social dialogue initiatives in 2007**

- ✓ Joint analysis on key challenges facing Europe's labour market
- ✓ Capacity building for SP in Ro, Bg, Cro and Tr,
- ✓ Studies on restructuring in EU 15



# Tripartite Concertation

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➔ **Discussions between social partners and public authorities on economic and labour market issues**

Why?

- to help devising widely supported policies
- to exchange views on policies
- to give advice

By who?

- the Council: when planing, before deciding
- the Commission: before proposing or when implementing





# Tripartite Concertation

COUNCIL

SOCIAL PARTNERS

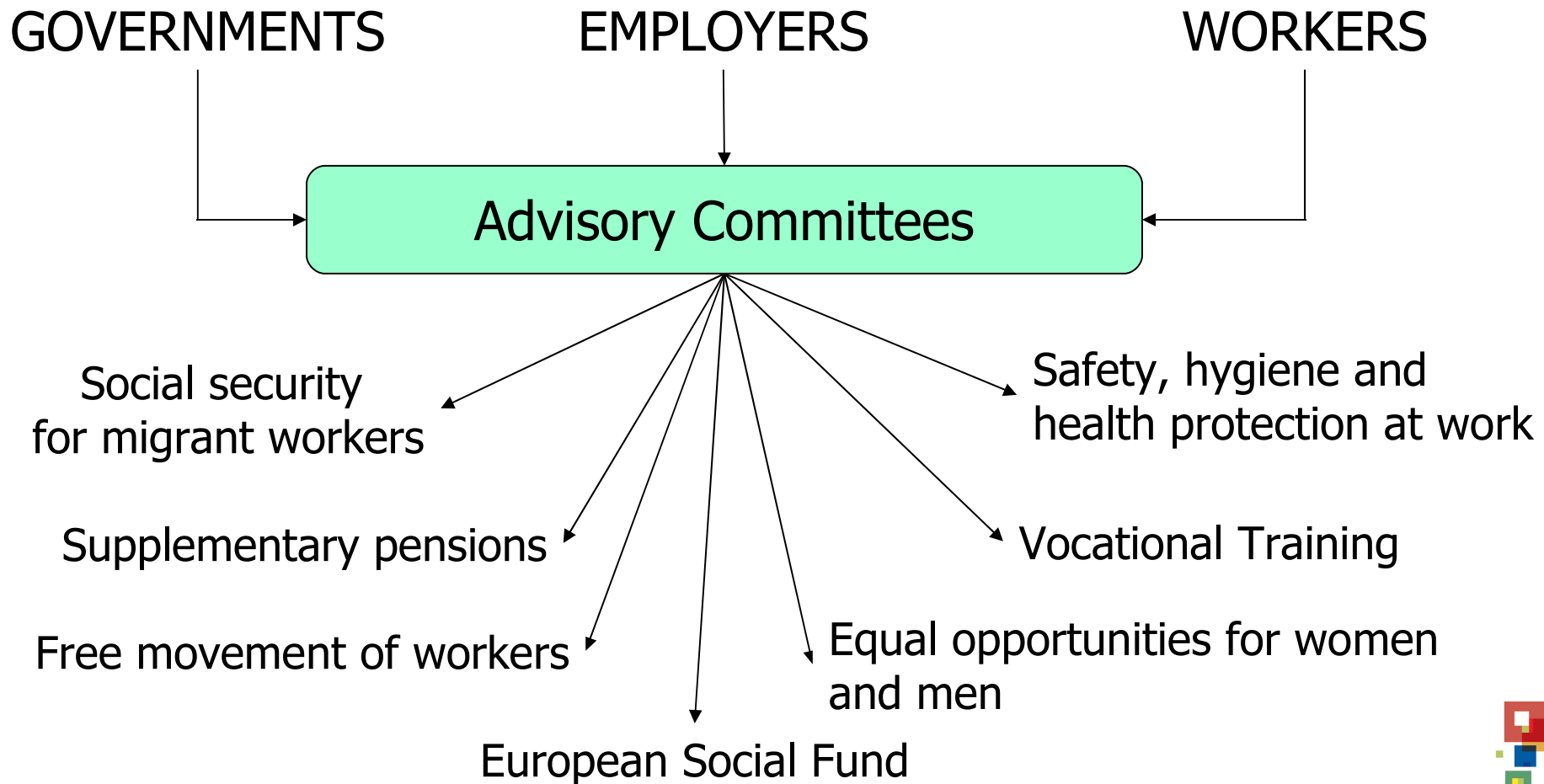
With head of states and governments:  
(Tripartite social summits)

At ministerial level:  
meetings with various Council formations

At technical level:  
meetings with the Employment Committee,  
the Social Protection Committee,  
DGVTs etc.



# Tripartite Concertation



## Further information

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[www.business europe.eu](http://www.business europe.eu)

