

Activity of the Lithuanian Tripartite Council in 2006

The Tripartite Council of the Republic of Lithuania has completed the eleventh year of its activity. 2006 was a year of intensive work as the Council held 12 meetings and 61 socio-economic issues were addressed during the year.

The last meeting in 2006 held on 21 December coincided to be the hundredth meeting.

The number of meetings of the Tripartite Council in 1995-2006

<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
5	6	4	10	7	7	10	9	10	10	10	12

Summary table showing the number of issues addressed by the Tripartite Council in 1995-2006

	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
<i>All issues</i>	27	44	26	82	70	36	45	65	76	77	71	75
<i>Socio-economic issues</i>	18	32	20	56	48	26	35	49	57	59	58	61
<i>Other issues</i>	9	12	6	26	22	10	10	16	19	18	13	14

In 1995-2006 the Tripartite Council held **100** meetings in total. On the whole **694** issues were addressed in these meetings, **519** of which were socio-economic issues and **175** were from other fields.

Some issues of higher importance addressed in 2006

In January and March the Council held a discussion on legislative package submitted by the State Labour Inspectorate, aimed at preventing illegal employment. Council members were sharing principally the same opinion. This issue is of common interest as illegal employment seems to be faulty from any viewpoint – employers are subjected to unequal competitive conditions, sooner or later they face problems of social security, pension schemes and health protection, whereas national taxation is being non-paid. The partners agreed on the need to enhance State Labour Inspectorate activity. The package was submitted to the Government and adopted by the Parliament.

The issue of structural reorganisation of JSC “Lithuanian Railways” was put under discussion by trade unions. Trade unions were anxious that after implementing reorganisation and privatisation of some sectors of “Lithuanian Railways” many employees are about to lose their jobs, while some of the subdivisions will be sold to foreign carriers and eliminated afterwards. The management of “Lithuanian Railways” and representatives of Ministry of Transport and Communications were invited to a meeting in order to ascertain rationale of these reforms. The management of “Lithuanian Railways” assured us that restructuring in regard with the mass redundancy is not intended for the foreseeable future.

Draft law on vocational training. This draft law received much commentary from the partners. The promoters took those comments into consideration. One of the most important

comments on the draft law was that there should be a concrete reference to the role of social partners in solving vocational training problems.

The draft laws **on establishment of Christmas holidays and on size limitations of contributions to public social security funds** have raised much debate. Social partners rejected the proposal, which was made by organisations representing too narrow interests. Committee on Economics of the Parliament took into consideration the derogation proposed by the Council stating that Christmas holidays would be a sound decision if they were agreed on in a collective agreement. Therefore, establishment of Christmas holidays was not authorised.

On 28 February discussions in the Council concerned the **raising the wages of medical staff**. After the meeting, solutions to the most difficult points were found by consulting. As a result, the issue of raising the medical staff wages was not under further consideration of the Council.

On 20 June after two earlier considerations it was agreed upon **the draft Law on safety and health at work**. The Government and the Parliament passed the law after hearing partners' proposals.

On 30 May under the proposal of the Tripartite Council of the City of Klaipėda a discussion was held on **the reimbursement of occupational illnesses' treatment**. An interservice work group was established to make proposals on solving the problem.

Social partners didn't succeed in reaching an agreement on all the issues of year 2006. Such areas as **increasing the monthly minimum wage up to LT 700 (approx. EUR 203) and increasing personal income tax allowances** require further discussions.

The discussion on wages of civil servants and other employees in the public sector was held in the Council **for three times, on 10 January, 28 February, and 5 December**. The parties failed to reach an agreement. The debate in the Council shall be resumed.

LIST OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE TRIPARTITE COUNCIL IN 2006

10 January

- on legislative proposals on enhancing prevention of illegal employment made by the State Labour Inspectorate;
- on regulation and improvement of remuneration to employees in the public sector;
- on courts' decisions on compensation for moral damage in the event of an occupational accident (*on regulation of the maximum size of benefits*);

31 January

- on solving public utilities' taxes problems;-on courts' decisions on compensation for moral damage in the event of an occupational accident (*on regulation of the maximum size of benefits*);
- on the nature of essential social services and on the approval of a list of these services (Articles 161(6) and 162(2) of the Labour Code);
- on the ratification of the Convention 147 of International Labour Organization;
- a review on representation of social partners from EU countries and Lithuania (*on implementation of point 2 of the Plan of measures for the development of social partnership 2005-2006*);
- on legislative proposals on further reflection of enhancing illegal employment prevention made by the State Labour Inspectorate;
- on regulation and improvement of remuneration to public service sector employees;
- on remuneration to Tripartite Council members;

28 February

- on increasing the hourly minimum wage;
- on supplementing the Labour Code with Article 162(3) on the nature of essential social services and on the approval of the list of these services;
- on courts' decisions on compensation for moral damage in the event of an occupational accident (*on regulation of the maximum size of benefits*);
- on implementation of agreement on the enhancement of medical staff wages in 2005;
- on amendment to Article 168(1) of the Labour code and on decision that Article 192 shall lapse;
- on regulation and improvement of remuneration to public service sector employees;
- on establishment of EESC commission under the Tripartite Council;

28 March

- on legislative proposals made by the State Labour Inspectorate on enhancing illegal employment prevention;
- on improvement of regulation of collective bargaining – on amendment and supplement to Articles 70, 72, and 77 of the Labour Code.
- on the programme FORWARD! Family and Work Reconciliation Development;
- on Tripartite Council Secretariat information on implementation of the Council decisions;
- on social issues of JSC “Lithuanian Railways” structural reorganisation;

25 April

- on changes in work organisation of JSC “Lithuanian Railways” dealing with changes in the company's inner structure, and on social aspects of these changes;
- on amendment to Article 220 of the Labour Code on guarantees to employees on secondment;
- on enforcement of the Tripartite agreement of 13 June 2005;
- on communication between the Tripartite Council and regional tripartite bodies;
- on amendment to Article 168(1) of the Labour Code and on the decision that Article 192 shall lapse (*on remuneration in case of deviation from normal working conditions*);

30 May

- on issues raised by the association of small and average carriers;
- on draft Law on Safety and Health at Work;
- on proposal by the Tripartite Council of the City of Klaipėda on the reimbursement of occupational illnesses' treatment;
- on arrangements of consultations about social dialogue and partnership issues;
- on draft amendment to Article 233 of the Administrative Law Infringement Code;

16 June

- on improving the model of social dialogue/partnership in Lithuania;
- on Law on Economic and Social Council;
- on establishment of European Economic and Social Commission under the Tripartite Council;
- on establishment of bipartite commission dealing with issues of remuneration to employees in the public sector and working relations;

20 June

- on draft Law on Vocational Training;
- on usage of Employment Fund;
- on draft Law on Safety and Health at Work;

-on arbitration under collective bargaining;

19 September

- on increasing the monthly minimum wage;
- on increasing the non-taxable minimum;
- on draft Law on Vocational training;
- on amendment and supplement to Articles 70, 72, 77, and 214 of the Labour Code;
- on capacity-building of social partners in relation with SPD funding for the new period;
- on implementation of determinations of the Council;
- on establishment of an interservice work group dealing with issues of treatment of occupational illnesses and insurance;
- on approval of a list of mediators and on remuneration to mediators;
- on issues raised by association of small and average carriers;
- on problems of collecting the communal charges;

24 October

- on increasing monthly minimum wage and personal income tax allowances and on changes in personal income tax;
- on amendment and supplement to Article 77 of the Labour Code;
- on social partners representation in the National Control Commission for Prices and Energy;
- on the opening up of the labour market for Bulgaria and Romania;
- on establishment of bipartite commission containing the representatives of trade unions and employers for examination of extending working time, social security contributions, holiday shifts, and other issues;

5 December

- on amendment to Article 162(1) of the Labour Code;
- on size limitations of contributions to public social security funds;
- on approval of content of the civil servants' bipartite commission under the Tripartite Council;
- on Plan of measures for the development of social partnership 2007-2008;
- on draft Economic migration management strategy;

21 December

- on situation of and perspectives for tripartite co-operation;
- on project of Employment Fund allocation;
- on revision of determinations of the Tripartite Council meeting of 5 December 2006;
- on amendment to Article 162(1) of the Labour Code;
- on size limitations of contributions to public social security funds;

*Tripartite Council Secretariat
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