



CGTP-IN COMMENTS ON PENSIONS

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he CGTP-IN agreed, in general terms, with the ETUC position on the White Paper, but we also added some comments that we considered relevant.

1. The social policies of the member states and namely pension systems are and should be maintained under the exclusive responsibility of the national states.

The EU interference in social policies was reinforced in the context of the new economic governance of 2010, which mostly includes budgetary control – strengthening of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) – and macroeconomic balance, in which the accent is put on competitiveness – new procedure of excessive macroeconomic imbalances.

The CGTP-IN considers it unacceptable that the space of national states' sovereignty is being progressively reduced, under the pretext of austerity policies and budgetary consolidation

2. Public social protection systems, based on the principles of solidarity and social insurance, are an essential pillar of the European social model. Public pension schemes, based on deductions as well as on labour and inter-generation solidarity, are those that are more adequate to ensure the right to a pension; they are to be preserved and improved.

3. Notwithstanding the relevance of demographic evolution, namely the increase of life expectancy and their impact on the reform of these systems, demography cannot be the only element to be considered.

4. The White Paper indicates as one of the main solutions the prolonging of active life, by increasing the age of retirement and the elimination of pre and early retirement schemes.

This solution is totally inappropriate if we look at the labour market, with age discrimination carried out by the employers, who are kicking out of the labour market workers of an increasingly younger age.

5. The CGTP-IN strongly repudiates the incentives given to private capitalisation schemes, to the detriment of public pension systems.

In conclusion, considering the current economic, financial and social crisis, high unemployment and features of the labour market, the CGTP-IN believes that in order to meet the challenges, we must, first of all, promote sustainable economic growth and expansion of employment and, secondly, to broaden the financial basis of public social protection systems, namely by diversifying the funding sources.

Thank you very much.

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