



**European Semester in The Netherlands;
participation of Social Partners**

1. Regular European Semester consultations, four focal points:

- Yearly consultation of social partners with government
- Preparation of National Reform Programme
- Country Report on The Netherlands
- Country Specific Recommendations

2. Advisory reports requested by government on:

- A level playing field between employees and self-employed
- A new contract for second pillar pensions
- Life-long-learning/ skills-agenda
- A deeper and fairer Internal Market

Yearly consultation with government

- Used to be focussed on the Spring European Council
- Used to be a meeting with 'Mr or Ms Lisbon'
- Now focussed on Country Report/ Country Specific Recommendations
- Recommendations/ issues in Country Report determine which minister will be invited for consultation

- Not in the Dutch ESC, but in the Labour Foundation
- Government sends drafts of NRP for social partners to comment upon
- Government retains sole responsibility for NRP
- Social partners add an annex outlining their contributions to the Europe 2020 agenda
- Part of the annex concerns the advisory role of the Dutch ESC

Country Report on The Netherlands



- Used to be confidential, but it is the basis for the Country Specific Recommendations!
- So social partners wanted to be consulted
- European Commission is willing to present the Country Report in the Dutch ESC
- In a combined session of two SER-committees
- DG Employment Joost Korte on 5 March 2019
- Interesting report, dealing with sensitive issues in an analytical way

Country Specific Recommendations

- Remove distortions in the housing market; debt bias, lack of a private rental sector
- Increase R&D
- Promote adequate social protection for self-employed, temporary contracts, permanent contracts
- Promote higher wage growth
- Make second pillar pensions more transparent, inter-generationally fairer and more resilient to shocks

Sensitive issues, no easy solutions, government needs social partners for the implementation of labour market recommendations

Advisory reports and other achievements

- Most Country Specific Recommendations have been under discussion in the SER
- Not easy to reach consensus
- Unanimous advisory reports on some specific issues: life-long-learning, development of skills-agenda
- Facilitating role on International Corporate Social Responsibility
- Facilitating role on the contents of a climate agreement
- Work in progress on reports:
 - Towards a deeper and fairer Internal Market
 - Macro-economic stability
 - Integration of migrants
 - Social dialogue in the public sector
 - More diversity at the top