



The German Federation of Trade Unions DGB and Justice and Peace: Critical review of European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010

Bonn/Berlin, 19.12.2010 –In a joint statement the German Federation of Trade Unions DGB and the German Commission Justice and Peace criticize that the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion didn't even basically lead to the needed structural changes in poverty prevention and reduction.

“Warm words alone are no filling meal, concrete steps are needed to effectively combat the working poor – problem” as DGB-board member Annelie Buntentbach sharply pointed out the deficits in combating poverty. “This European Year, like others before, didn't bring substantial improvement for people vulnerable to poverty and exclusion because of precarious employment. Especially migrant workers and their families are affected by the financial and economic crisis. This occupational group could be better protected, would the necessary legal and social measures have been introduced and implemented, as it was taken into consideration during the European Year of Workers' Mobility 2006.

Both organizations agree: the according international agreements have finally to be ratified and implemented.

Bishop Dr. Stephan Ackermann, chairman of the German Commission Justice of Peace, points out: “The mere sequence of European Years with noble goals is insufficient. To avoid damages of credibility, the annual theme consequently has to be used to really improve the situation of the particular focus group. Another very vulnerable group of workers face the risk to be put in a distressing position: the domestic workers in the EU, coming from EU-member states as well as neighboring countries to the richer countries in the EU.”

DGB and Justice and Peace therefore request the Federal Government to take action and to exert its influence in Europe for effectively combating poverty and social exclusion through:

- **Ratification of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;**
- **Implementation of real cross-border social security systems for migrant workers, which also support reintegration in their countries of origin;**
- **Introduction of minimum wages at the level of a living wage. Individual or collective agreements cannot exceed the minimum wages;**

- **And the support and implementation of international labor law agreements as for example the ILO-convention on Domestic Workers.**

Download of full text: <http://www.dgb.de/-/qLS> und <http://www.justitia-et-pax.de/de/archiv/aktivitaeten/entwicklung/index.shtml?navid=10>

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