

Reaching out to the CEEC

“Sharing the European dimension through social dialogue”

1. The European organisation of Agricultural and Rural Contractors (CEETTAR) grants a key place to the social dialogue in the pre-adhesion policy of the CEEC.

Considering that:

- 1.1 The re-structuring and the modernisation of the agricultural structures represent a great challenge for the CEEC, where the level of agricultural population is extremely high;
- 1.2 A large number of small farms, some of them with low productivity levels, are fearing their disappearance due to the EU agricultural pressures and the globalisation effect.
- 1.3 The surviving farms will have to adopt the EU policy regarding the use of machinery, fertilising agents, health plant, hygiene products, etc. They have to modernise their equipment, their organisation, their commercial policies;
- 1.4 Monitoring policies (professional training, reconverting outside the farming industry, rural services) will be needed;
- 1.5 On social policy, an enormous effort must be undertaken for the adoption of the “acquis communautaire” and its implementation. All of these points will be included in an ambitious calendar and are on the lines of the reform procedures with which the EU agricultural policy is committed;

2 Centralisation, and information who not reach those “below”, partners who don’t have any dialogue

The CEETTAR has realised:

- 2.1 The role of the trade unions and the employer’s organisations within the CEEC is fairly small. The tripartite structures are usually very formal, dialogue between employers and trade unions not very developed, relations with States very centralised;
- 2.2 Despite the achieved progress, the national administrations still play a rather passive role and few European information’s go around. Here is the risk for

the joining of candidate countries as well as danger for economic and social cohesion;

- 2.3 The sectoral social dialogue constitutes an efficient level of action for proximity to the citizens;
- 2.4 The Agricultural, Rural and forestry Work (ARC) within the candidate countries will have to play an accelerated role in the agricultural sector, as they do in the EU, but facing that they are behind on technical level, will have to surmount legal obstacles.

3 Innovate to renovate

CEETTAR initiates an important project supporting the CEEC with:

- 3.1 The development of the **social dialogue** and the integration of the social partners within the European Structures;
- 3.2 An action preparing human resources (men and women) in the entrepreneurs organisations and salaried trade unions to reinforce the dialogue structures and face the agriculture difficulties to adapt it in its way to Europe;
- 3.3 The possibility to undertake in each country a tripartite social dialogue. (State, employer, workers);
- 3.4 A reinforcement of the technical and technological capacities the ARC facing the needs of the farmers for re-structuring and modernising their structures;
- 3.5 The perfect development of the transition phase is essential if we aim a full and positive integration of candidate countries agricultural sectors in the CAP;
- 3.6 Information and exchanges meetings on social general and sectarian dialogue; and on the different programmes and support measures available now for the candidate countries¹.
- 3.7 The training project “ *Social dialogue for the ECEC for better integration at the social dimension* ”

4 Implement these objectives with appropriate actions

¹ The PHARE programme, institutional edification and investments linked to the adoption of the acquis. The SAPARD programme for the agricultural and rural development. The ISPA projects in the environmental and transport field as well as other EU programmes implemented in the CEEC together with the pre-adhesion loans such as the LEONARDO programmes – professional training.

CEETTAR has set up several stages:

- 4.1 Information seminars in the candidate countries;
- 4.2 A targeted strategy, some specific national action plans;
- 4.3 Meetings with decision takers from and in Brussels.

5 A monitoring action

A 3 steps policy: Listening, informing, dialoguing to allow the CEEC partners to understand the challenges and the methods of the European construction in order to unveil the present stakes and share the hopes for our future common European adventure.