

Arbejdsmarkedsudvalget
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Offentligt

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VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

B-1049 BRUSSELS

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Mr. Ulrik Kragh
Chairman,
Labour Market Committee
Danish Parliament

Dear Mr. Kragh ,

Thank you for your opinion on the Green Paper – "Modernising labour law to meet the challenges of the 21st century" dated 30 March 2007.

In line with the Commission's decision to encourage national parliament to react to its proposals to improve the process of policy formulation, we welcome this opportunity to respond to your comments. I enclose the Commission's response. I hope you will find these a valuable contribution to your own deliberations.

I look forward to developing our policy dialogue further in the future.

Yours sincerely,


Margot WALLSTRÖM

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consultation on the Green Paper convened by the two Committees on 14 March, together with the social partners and researchers from the Copenhagen Business School (*Handelshøjskolen*) and the University of Copenhagen.

The Opinion considers the Danish flexicurity model, which has developed through a process of tripartite dialogue involving the social partners and the political system, to be well suited to adapting to changes in the global market and to have been successful in achieving a gradual shift of focus from job security to employment security. It identifies the bilateral approach, reflected in agreements on pay and working conditions concluded between employers and trade organisations, as a corner-stone of the Danish flexicurity model. At EU level, it considers that social dialogue should be strengthened and utilised in the formulation of any Community legislative measures in the field of employment and social policy. The Member States should decide for themselves how such measures are implemented. The Opinion concludes that the rights and obligations appropriate to the individual workplace should be decided on the basis of agreement between management and employees at that level.

The Commission has noted the views expressed in the opinion of the Danish Parliament and will take these views into account in the context of the preparation of a follow-up Communication later in 2007 which will address the main policy issues and options identified in all of the responses received. This work will complement the broader range of initiatives on the topic of flexicurity that the Commission is developing in close cooperation with the Member States.