

Secretary-General
Secrétaire général

AG/2009.525.Ilt

28 September 2009

Dear Director-General,

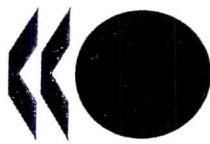
I am delighted co-operation between our two Organisations has been strengthened recently in the employment and social protection areas as a direct response to the global jobs crisis and the mandates given to both Organisations by the G8/G14 Social Summit in Rome and the G20 London and Pittsburgh Summits to monitor the impact of the crisis and the policy responses which countries are putting in place to cope with it. The ILO's Global Jobs Pact, your report to the Pittsburgh Summit, to which we made a contribution, and this year's OECD Employment Outlook are the first three concrete responses to these mandates. The OECD will assign a high priority to continuing its monitoring and evaluation work and we will be happy to share this material with the ILO in a collaborative fashion.

In addition, as was highlighted by the G20 Leaders in Pittsburgh, there is also the need to assess how skill development/lifelong learning strategies can contribute to a sustainable exit strategy from the current crisis including the labour market, education and training implications of a long-term shift towards a low-carbon economy worldwide. On our side, we plan to tackle this specific mandate by drawing upon our New Skills for New Jobs project, our Jobs for Youth reviews, and our proposed new international survey of adult skills (PIAAC). The meeting of OECD Employment and Labour Ministers in Paris on the 28-29 September will endorse this work and give the OECD a mandate to deepen its engagement with the major emerging economies in the fields of employment and social protection.

Given our long history of co-operation in the employment and social protection fields and the respective comparative advantages of our two Organisations, I am convinced that a reinforcement of this co-operation in line with the recent mandates will be mutually beneficial. I would also add that the ambitious programme of work on data and indicators, called for by President Sarkozy's Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, will also need close co-operation between our Organisations.

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Mr. Juan Somavía
Director-General
International Labour Office (ILO)



In sum, I am delighted to reiterate the OECD's commitment to reinforced co-operation with the ILO in the fields of employment and social protection. At the same time, co-operation between our two Organisations covers a much broader range of policy areas. I am conscious that the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the ILO and the OECD is completely out-of-date and I agree with you that it would be highly desirable to update it as soon as possible. I suggest that this exchange of letters could serve as the launching pad for such an update and I propose to nominate John Martin assisted by Jan Schuijjer as the contact person on our side for this process.

I look forward to your response to this initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Angel Gurria



The Director-General

28 September 2009

Dear Secretary-General,

In the past few years, the ILO and the OECD have broadened and deepened their collaboration at various levels. You have invited me regularly to OECD ministerial meetings. You addressed the ILO Governing Body in November 2008. Our technical departments have intensified their exchanges and cooperation. Under our guidance this cooperation should be deepened and further enhanced. How to address the crisis through the lens of the Decent Work Agenda and the Global Jobs Pact would be particularly interesting for us. This general framework is enhanced by the requests of the G20 in London and the reference to both our organizations by the G20 in Pittsburgh on which we must continue working together.

I welcome these developments and believe they benefit both our organizations, drawing on our complementarity. The current Memorandum of Understanding between the ILO and the OECD is outdated. I suggest we set ourselves the goal of developing and signing a new memorandum as soon as possible. This should reflect the full potential of our cooperation across the various fields in which it is developing, including inter alia employment and labour market policies, climate change and statistical analysis.

I suggest we engage without delay on enhanced cooperation in the field of statistics where urgent work is to be carried out between our respective statistical departments. We can agree on a separate memorandum addressing joint work in this area.

Mr Angel Gurría
Secretary-General
Organisation for Economic Co-operation
and Development (OECD)
PARIS

I look forward to a fruitful and close collaboration to the benefit of our two organizations, fully respecting our respective mandates and identity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Juan Si", with a large, sweeping flourish on the left side.

Juan Somavia