

# **The Sustainable Company: changing the way our corporations are governed in the interests of stakeholders and society**

Brussels, 12 July 2011

The recent financial and economic crisis has intensified the debate on how our companies should be governed. Dissatisfaction is growing with the 'shareholder value' model of the firm, which claims that the stock market is the best yardstick for company value and which has dominated reform of company law for the past two decades. This conference will focus on the need for change in Europe's corporate governance system and a reorientation of our companies away from short-term shareholder value to long-term sustainability. Keynote speakers will discuss current challenges and policy alternatives in corporate governance in Europe. Panel sessions will debate new ideas and alternatives presented in the book *The Sustainable Company*, which was written by members of GOODCORP, a network of researchers and trade unionists concerned with corporate governance issues.

## Draft Program

9.30 Welcome from ETUI (Philippe Pochet)

9.45 Keynote speech (from ETUC or Commission) or roundtable discussion

10.15 The Sustainable Company (Vitols/Kluge)

10.45 Coffee Break

11.15-12.30 First panel – Worker influence in the Sustainable Company

Moderator: Norbert Kluge (ThyssenKrupp)

Aline Conchon (ETUI)

Jan Cremers (Amsterdam Institute of Advanced Labour Studies)

Ulrich Mückenberger (Hamburg University)

Andrew Pendleton (York University) (tbc)

12.30-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.15 Second panel – What framework conditions would be needed to support the Sustainable Company?

Moderator: Ieke van den Burg (Stichting à Propos)

Andreas Botsch (ETUI)

Gregory Jackson (Freie Universität Berlin)

Andrew Watt (ETUI)

15.15-15.45 Coffee Break

15.45 Roundtable discussion or keynote speech (ETUC or European Commission)

Moderation/Introduction: Maria Jepsen (ETUI)

17.00 End of conference