

Proposal for Skopje Spring Congress 2020

Proposal
501

LYMEC Spring Congress, April 3 to 5, 2020 in Skopje

Author: JOVD, Noud Dumoulin Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, Philipp Eng

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Skopje Spring Congress 2020 may decide:

1 On the liberty of national minimum wages

2 On the liberty of national minimum wages

3 Considering that:

- 4 • The European Union has started consultations on the introduction of a European
5 minimum wages that overshadows current national systems;
- 6 • The European Union has no legal authority on the issue of minimum wages. Moreover,
7 the EU treaty explicitly excludes pay issues from Commission legislation (art. 153);
- 8 • The current national system of minimum wages is the result of years, if not decades of
9 collective bargaining with national actors and function well in the majority of its member
10 states;
- 11 • Poverty rates and the presence or absence of a minimum wage system are unrelated, as
12 states that lack minimum wages are divergent in that respect.

13

14 Believing that:

- 15 • The European framework on the issue of minimum wages is neither legitimate nor an
16 effective way of fighting poverty and stopping internal competition;
- 17 • The diversity of existing labour relations systems in the different member states, as well
18 as their methods of setting pay reflect different cultural perspectives on the issue, that
19 need to be respected;
- 20 • A European minimum wage generally lowers the fundamentally needed incentives in the
21 working society in its member states;
- 22 • A minimum wage is most effective when set on the lowest economic and political unit
23 possible, considering economic and national characteristics. Therefore, minimum wages
24 can only serve its purpose when debated and applied on a national level.

25

26 LYMEC calls for:

- 27 • The European Commission to cease all consultations and plans on the introduction of a
28 EU minimum wage;
- 29 • The European Commission to re-emphasize the national authority on the issue of
30 minimum wages.

Attention: This is a preview! The official text is printed in the proposal book for Skopje Spring Congress 2020 03 - 05 April 2020.