

Social Partners Procedures

There is a non-legislative procedure under EU social law which provides for the important involvement of management and labour at EU level (i.e. the European social partners) rather than the European Parliament.

Arts. 154 and 155 TFEU: the social partners procedure

Art. 154 TFEU: Consultation of the social partners

If the Commission considers
action desirable.

Consultation by the Commission with the social partners (management and labor) on the possible action before the Commission submits proposals in the social field.

Consultation by the Commission with the social partners on the context of the envisaged proposal.

The social partners may inform the Commission that they wish to initiate the procedure under Art. 155 TFEU.

Art. 155 TFEU Procedure

Dialogue between the social partners leads to contractual relations. There are two possibilities for the implementation of the resulting Framework Agreement:

National implementation

Pursuant to national procedures and practices specific to the social partners and the Member States.

EU implementation

- Upon joint request of the social partners, proposal by the Commission, decision by the Council of Ministers.
- Content of the directive (namely the social partner's Framework Agreement) attached to the text of the directive.

Source: C. Tobler, J. Beglinger. Essential EU Law in Charts. 2nd „Lisbon“ edition. Budapest: Hvgorac, 2010, p. 100, supplemented by J. Erne.