



Invitation to a Roundtable discussion on

Trade unions and the European Semester: Belgium and Germany between agency and neglect?

Roundtable Discussion

Brussels, 22 January 2019, 2-4 PM

Venue: International auditorium, Boulevard du Roi Albert II – 5, 1210 Brussels, **Room B**, 1st floor

Interpretation: French and English

The 'European Semester' is the European Union's (EU) annual policy cycle, through which it coordinates not only the macro-economic and fiscal policies of the Member States but also their employment and social policies. Through this process, the EU addresses policy recommendations to the Member States. Over the years, this process has gained considerable 'bite' and is seen, at least in some countries, as a significant factor in the national policymaking cycle. As a consequence, European and national social partners alike have shown an increasing but variable interest in becoming involved in and 'having a say' on the various stages of the Semester.

Against this backdrop, European Commission-funded project 'National Trade Union Involvement in the European Semester' (INVOTUNES), is an attempt to unravel (a) whether and how national social partners are involved in the European Semester; (b) which strategies they use (if any) to get involved; and (c) whether there is any kind of interaction between European Semester activities and national social dialogue.

The final aim of the project, which is coordinated by the European Social Observatory (OSE), is to provide social partners with concrete recommendations as to how to increase their involvement — and ultimately their influence — in the Semester. At the heart of the project are eight case studies in as many countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal and Sweden. The focus is on three policy areas: the labour market, wage setting as well as social protection and social inclusion policies.

We have the pleasure of hereby inviting you to a **Roundtable Discussion** on the topic which will take place in Brussels on Tuesday **22 January** 2019 (2-4 PM). The Roundtable will address the **involvement of trade unions in the European Semester, with a focus on Belgium and Germany**. The event is a key opportunity for a critical exchange of views between researchers, national and European stakeholders and policymakers. The interactive discussion will identify the opportunities arising from 'having a say' in the Semester but also the constraints encountered. Leading scholars will shed light on the recent developments, challenges and opportunities in this respect. Further details can be found in the enclosed **programme**.

Practical information:

Venue: International auditorium, Boulevard du Roi Albert II – 5, 1210 Brussels, Room B, 1st floor

Interpretation: English and French

Online registration (compulsory): <http://www.ose.be/form/21220119/public/>

INVOTUNES website: <http://www.ose.be/invotunes/>

Contact:

Françoise Verri, European Social Observatory – OSE – Phone : (+32) (0)2 537 19 71 – E-mail : verri@ose.be

With the financial support of the

