



High-Level Conference on Active Employment Policies

Yolanda Díaz proposes that the EU should recognise and guarantee the right to training at work in the next European legislature.

- It would allow the right to lifelong learning to be put into practice by establishing the general framework of application.
- Active Employment Policies must be transformed to guarantee this right, a path taken in Spain with the measures adopted by the Government.
- "Skills are key for workers to access better, stable jobs, with fair wages and adequate working conditions in terms of equality and without gender gaps", said Díaz

Barcelona, 19th October 2023 - The Second Vice-President of the Government and Acting Minister of Labour and Social Economy, Yolanda Díaz, took part in the inaugural session of the High-Level Conference *on Active Employment Policies: Pillar of the European Year of Skills*, held on 19th and 20th October at the World Trade Centre in Barcelona. These sessions are organised by the Public Service for State Employment (SEPE) within the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

At a time of profound transformations, caught up in a digital revolution and ecological transition that are already a part of our present and must be fair, "it is our responsibility to ensure that the same people don't end up losing, whilst a select few benefit," outlined Díaz.

The Labour Minister also stressed that workers must have the necessary skills "so that innovation, algorithms and artificial intelligence are placed at the service of the common good and so that the decarbonisation of the economy has a positive impact on the lives of most individuals in society, and makes it possible to conceive of and build a better future"

Yolanda Díaz was accompanied by the European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit at the opening session of this event. The acting Second Vice-President has also participated in the keynote Ministers



Panel, together with the Ministers of Employment of Belgium, Christie Morreale, and Sweden, Johan Pehrson, which was moderated by María Emilia Casas, Professor of Labour Law and Social Security and President Emeritus of the Constitutional Court. Other speakers included the Secretaries of State of Portugal, Romania, Germany and Slovakia.

Yolanda Díaz thanked the European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit, for his commitment to inclusive and quality education, training and life-long learning, the first social right included in the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The Minister of Labour has advocated a right to training within the framework of the European Union, that can pave the way to identifying the requirements to be met in terms of duration and refresher courses over time, throughout one's working life; the conditions for exercising said right, both during and outside working hours, in the form of training leave; remuneration or financial compensation for persons undergoing training; the improvement and simplification of national systems for the accreditation, certification, validation and recognition of skills acquired in other Member States; and the role of collective agreements in the articulation and development of this right.

High-Level Conference

The High-Level Conference *Active Employment Policies: Pillar of the European Year of Skills* held in the Catalan capital, brings together more than 300 people, including participants, experts, heads of institutions, trade unions, employer associations, and representatives of the European Network of Public Employment Services to study and debate ongoing changes in the labour market and their impact on the skills required by workers and companies alike.

Signing with social partners

After this first session of the High Level Conference, Yolanda Díaz will sign the **Tripartite Declaration on the European Year of Skills**, together with with the European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights and the representatives of European social partners.



The signing of this document emphasises that "we have made social dialogue the hallmark of the Spanish Government and now we seek to make it the banner of Social Europe", explained the Second Vice-President of the caretaker Government.