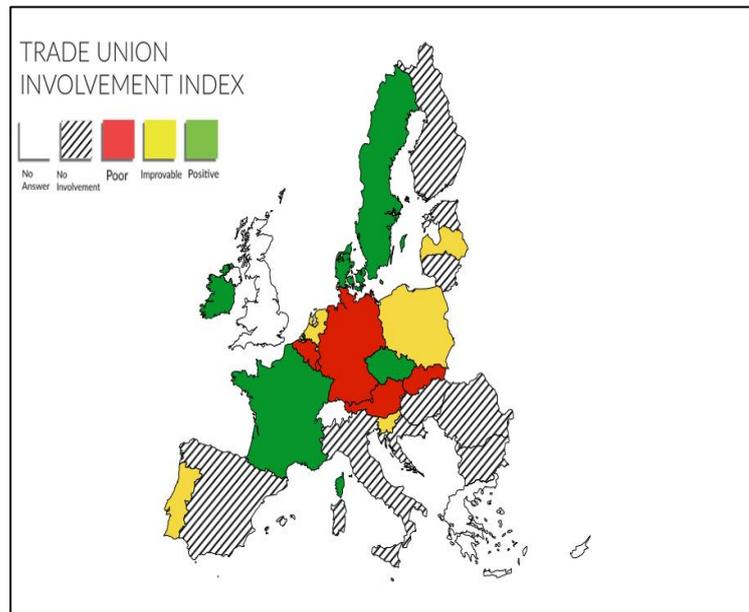


ETUC key messages for the EMCO peer review of the social partners' involvement in the European semester at national level (21 November 2018)

ETUC TU-I INDEX 2018

The ETUC Trade Union Involvement Index monitors the involvement of trade unions in the European semester at national level according to four quality criteria: format of consultations, access to information, timing and level of interlocutors. The map below shows the results of the monitoring exercise performed on consultations with national governments throughout the 2018 cycle.

Despite the commitment of the European Institutions to a new start for social dialogue in recent years, governments too often largely disregard the involvement of trade unions in the design as well as implementation of their reform plans. The European Pillar of Social Rights promised a more social European Semester and engaged the social partners to cooperate in this direction. Nevertheless, the picture is still largely unsatisfactory and, since the EPSR was proclaimed, there has been no concrete improvement.



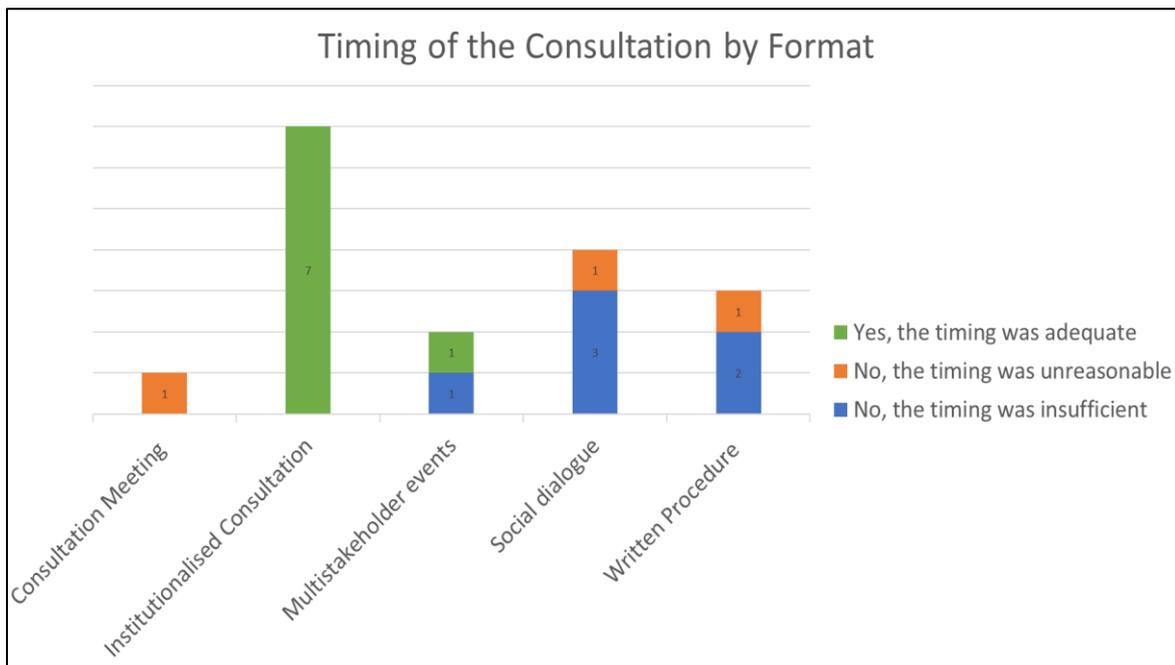
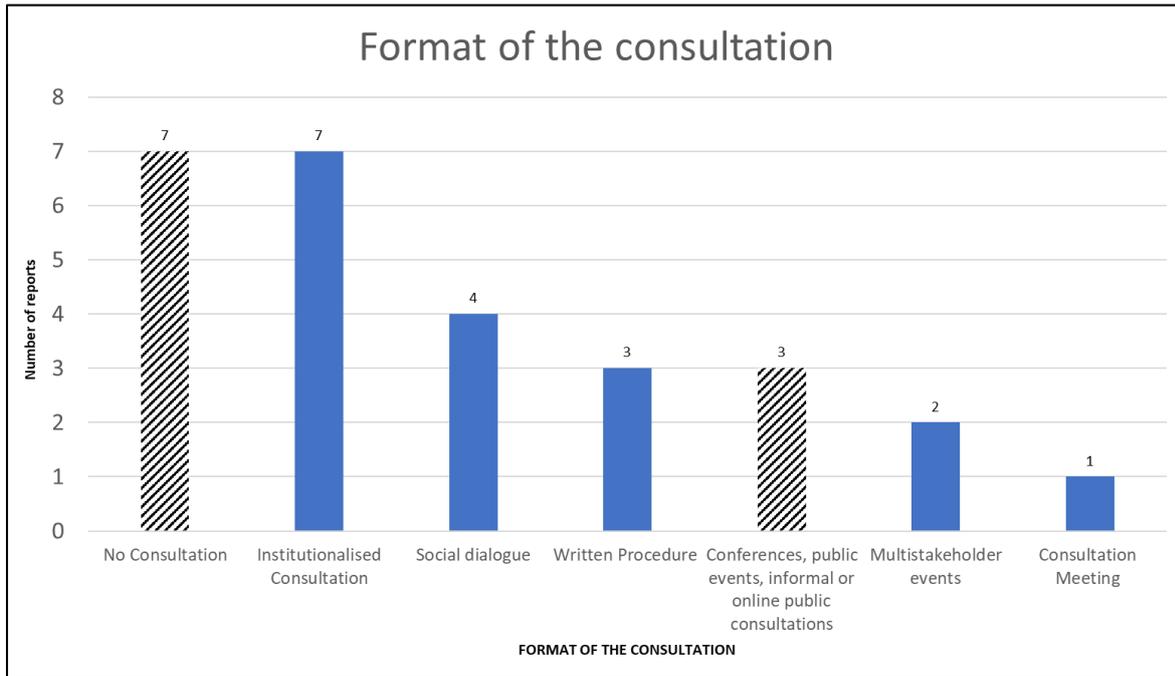
For the second year in a row, trade union involvement is reportedly neither systematic nor coherent with the milestones of the Semester. The Trade Union Involvement Index 2018 (based on the Semester cycle just ended) shows that out of 25 countries scrutinised, only 6 provide a satisfactory level of involvement (green: CZ, DK, EI, FR, MT, SE). In 5 other countries, the involvement should be improved (yellow: LV, NL, PL, PT, SI). In the remaining 14 countries, the degree of involvement is either zero (white with black stripes: BG, EE, ES, FI, HR, HU, IT, LT, RO) or totally ineffective (red: AT, BE, DE, LU, SK). The main reasons of complaint are that governments do not reply to requests regarding consultation of social partners, and if a response is received, in most cases the format of the dialogue is inadequate or the timing insufficient. Even at European level, although the intensity of the dialogue has improved, the ETUC stresses that trade union demands often remain unheard.

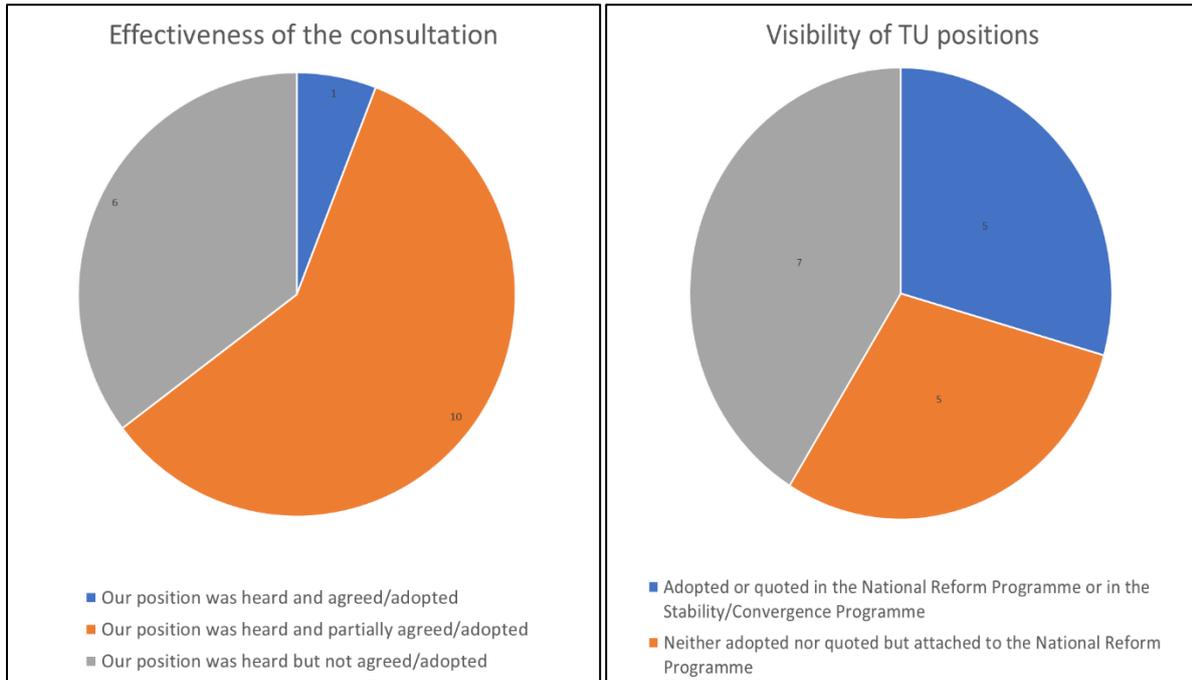
The ETUC considers that the EMCO multilateral surveillance exercise still shows some flaws where methodology and conclusions are concerned, as they are unable to make a clear distinction between social dialogue in policy making, social partners involvement in the semester, and the role of collective bargaining at national level. The ETUC has advised EMCO and the European Commission that the main objective of this exercise is to reinforce the rights of social partners to be consulted at the milestones of the semester and when applicable during the Excessive imbalance procedure. In line with the Quadripartite Declaration on "A New Start for Social Dialogue", the ETUC demands a European rule that obliges national governments to consult social partners especially before the National Reform Programmes, Stability/Convergence Programme, and on CSRs. In the meantime, starting the 2019

European Semester, the Commission could ask representatives of central governments at the appropriate level to attend consultations with national social partners during national visits.

Finally, the ETUC stresses that EMCO conclusions should lead to identify flaws in the involvement of social partners and to activate a cooperative dialogue between national governments and social partners in order to create conditions for enabling a genuine, timely and meaningful involvement of social partners at the milestones of the European semester cycle.

SOME FIGURES FROM THE TU-I INDEX 2018





METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The ETUC defines trade union involvement in the Semester as (i) any form of *dialogue* with national and European decision-makers which (ii) *meaningfully*, (iii) in a *timely* manner, with adequate capacities and (iv) at the *appropriate level* is conducive to ETUC affiliates exercising influence in the designing and in the implementation of policies at the milestones of the European Semester and, if desired, in any other process related to the economic governance of the EU.