

## Remarks on the WSI proposals for the further development of the TURI network by the Fafo Institute for Labour and Social Research

Remarks regarding the very constructive proposal from the WSI (03 May 2010):

Dear friends,

Eventually emerging from the ash-cloud isolation, none of the Fafo fellows are unfortunately able to come to the TURI conference. In stead we forward a few remarks regarding the very constructive proposal from the WSI.

- We find the idea to establish **thematic networks** very useful; assuming they will have to be self-financed, we should probably see to that they are complementary with thematic networks already run by the ETUI.

- A **working paper series** can open a welcome low threshold channel to disseminate relevant national and comparative research internationally. Allowing greater variety in shape and form such a series can be complementary to Transfer, but will require some effort (human resources) to organize quality control. Who can take care of that?

- We are a bit more doubtful about the **Yearbook idea**. The experience from Transfer indicates that it takes quite some work - and editorial energy and capacity - to secure focus, actuality, quality, and timely production of such pan-European books. As far as we remember the ETUI has (for similar reasons?) stopped making such publications (cf the former annual Collective bargaining report, and the Social Europe Yearbook). The idea of making some joint booklets deserves further elaboration, though. May be such an aim could serve as an organizing device for some of the thematic networks?

Given the resource limitations a critical general condition is probably the extent to which extension of the TURI cooperation is complementary to ETUI activities and might mobilise some assistance from the ETUI - in mutual self-interest. From the view of Fafo, which receives 90 percent of our funding from acquired projects, we also have to concede that we have virtually no resources to put into TURI projects unless they can draw on some longer- term external projects. On the other hand, joint TURI efforts can perhaps contribute to development of such projects, and so enable broader win-win gains.

These were some preliminary reflections on our part. Wishing you good luck with the conference, we look forward to hearing how you agreed to proceed,

Best  
Jon Erik Dølvik  
Fafo