Dear Madam, dear Sir, dear Friend,

The European Social Observatory (OSE) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) would very much like to invite you to the final event of the "ProWelfare" project, which is to take place in Brussels on 5th December 2013, between 9 am and 5 pm. The venue of the meeting is the Auditorium of the International Trade Union House, 5 Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 1210 Brussels (close to the North Station). Interpretation will be provided from and to EN, FR, DE and PL. Passive interpretation from IT and ES. Download the Conference Programme here.

For the past year the OSE and the ETUC have been leading a research project on Providing welfare through Social Dialogue: A renewed role for Social Partners? ("ProWelfare"). The project aims at analysing the emergence of “contract welfare” in eight EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the UK. During the Final Conference the research teams will present the core findings and policy implications of the research, which aims to ascertain whether and how supplementary welfare benefits are increasingly provided through collective bargaining, or unilaterally by employers. Lead academics (EU and national), stakeholders and policymakers will provide feedback and participate in the discussions.

We are planning a meeting with a morning session that will address the key findings of the research project: there will be ample room to discuss these with academic peers (who will introduce the debate) as well as with the wider audience. During the two ensuing parallel sessions, you will have the chance to attend the presentation of the country case studies, which will then be reported back to the plenary during a Round Table Discussion.

The afternoon session will begin with two keynote academic interventions on contract welfare in pensions and unemployment insurance (policy areas not yet covered by the research). Project partners, experts and stakeholders alike will conclude the day with a debate about the future of voluntary occupational welfare (research).

If you wish to attend, please fill in the online enrolment form http://www.ose.be/conference051213/ as soon as possible (not later than 18 November 2013). For further information regarding the logistical details, please contact Andrea Lewis at the ETUC ALewis@ETUC.ORG.

Kind regards, and hoping to meet you (again) on 5th December,

Józef Niemiec (ETUC Deputy General Secretary) and Bart Vanhercke (OSE Director)