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Invitation to the Final Conference

## Social partner involvement in the European Semester

Brussels, 3 December 2019 – 8.30 am - 5.30 pm

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Dear Madam or Sir,

The **‘European Semester’** is the European Union’s 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 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, the European Commission-funded project ‘National Trade Union Involvement in the European Semester’ – **INVOTUNES**, aims 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 project is coordinated by the European Social Observatory (OSE), in collaboration with several national research institutes as well as the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). Its ambition is to provide social partners with concrete **recommendations** as to how to increase their involvement – and ultimately their influence – in the Semester. 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 the **Final Conference** which will take place in Brussels on 3 December 2019 and will bring together researchers, EU and national policymakers, social partners and civil society actors.

There will be ample time to flesh out the project’s key findings, following the presentation of three **analytical reports**. During the ensuing parallel sessions, you will have the chance to engage in a discussion about the eight country **case studies**: Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal and Sweden. The final, forward-looking Roundtable Discussion will raise the tricky question of *whether the EU should take initiatives (soft governance, legislation) to encourage Member States to enhance the quality of social partner involvement in the Semester?*

If you wish to attend, please fill in the **online enrolment** form (see below) by **22 November 2019**.

Kind regards and hoping to meet you on 3 December 2019.

**Bart Vanhercke**,  
Director  
European Social Observatory

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## Practical information

**Venue:** NH Brussels Bloom, Room Inspire, rue Royale 250, 1210 Brussels

**Interpretation** in the plenary and in the parallel sessions from and to English and French.

**Programme (PDF):** <http://www.ose.be/EN/agenda.htm>

**Online registration (compulsory):** <http://www.ose.be/form/02031219/public/>

**Accommodation and travel** expenses will be borne by the participants.

**Download the case studies :** <http://www.ose.be/invotunes/> (full papers in English and executive summaries in national languages).

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

 Follow the event on Twitter: **#INVOTUNES**

### **Contact :**

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