

25th March

Economic advocacy to assure business sustainability and avoid massive job losses: what works, what does not



A powerful
and balanced
voice for business

14.00 – 14.10	Welcome remarks by Roberto Suárez Santos , Secretary General, IOE
14.10– 14.25	Setting the Scene by Sangheon Lee , Director Employment Policy Department, ILO
14.25 – 15.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stefano Scarpetta, Director, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD • Thomas Obst, Senior Adviser, German Economic Institute • Renate Hornung-Draus, BDA Managing Director • José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Former Minister of Economics of Costa Rica, former ILO Executive Director • Raymond Torres, Director for Macroeconomy and International Analysis, Funcas
15.15 – 15.25	Tour de table
15.25 – 15.30	Concluding remarks, Roberto Suárez Santos

Setting the Scene

Sangheon Lee, Director Employment Policy
Department, ILO

Sangheon LEE is the Director of the Employment Policy Department (EMPLOYMENT) of the ILO which leads ILO's action for promoting full and productive employment by developing integrated employment, development and skills policies.



Stefano Scarpetta, Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs at the OECD.

Mr. Scarpetta joined the OECD in 1991 and held several positions in the Economics Department and in his current Directorate. From 2002 to 2006 he worked at the World Bank, where he took over the responsibility of labour market advisor and lead economist. He returned to the Economics Department of the OECD in November 2006 where he became the head of the Country Studies Division in charge of Japan, Korea, China, India, Mexico, Portugal, Denmark and Sweden. From March 2008 to June 2010, he was the editor of the OECD Employment Outlook and the Head of the Employment Analysis and Policy Division of the Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs (DELSA). He became the Deputy Director of DELSA in June 2010 and in May 2013 he became Director.



Thomas Obst, Senior Adviser, German Economic Institute

Mr. Obst joined the GEI in 2019. He studied Arts with Honours in International Business at the University of Economics and Law (HWR Berlin) and Anglia Ruskin University, Berlin und Cambridge, International Economics at the University of Economics and Law Berlin (HWR Berlin), Berlin and Economics at the University of Greenwich, London



Renate Hornung-Draus, BDA Managing Director

Renate Hornung-Draus is managing director and director of European and international affairs of the Confederation of German Employers (BDA), a business organisation representing the interests of private employers in the fields of employment, labour, and social affairs. She also acts as Regional Vice-President for Europe & Central Asia at the IOE.



José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Former Minister of Economics of Costa Rica, former ILO Executive Director

Previous to joining the ILO Mr Salazar Xirinachs was Chief Trade Advisor and Director of the Trade Unit (in 2004 became Office of Trade, Growth and Competitiveness) at the Organization of American States (OAS) (1998-2005), supporting OAS member States in matters related to trade policy and economic integration, in particular, negotiating a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

From 1997 to 1998 Mr. Salazar-Xirinachs was Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica a period that included Costa Rica's Chairmanship of the FTAA process. From 1994 to 1997, he served as Executive Director of the Federation of Private Entities of Central America and Panama (FEDEPRICAP) and from 1990 to 1994, as the Federation's Chief Economist.



Raymond Torres, Director for Macroeconomy and International Analysis, Funcas

Raymond Torres is the Director of Macroeconomic Analysis and Forecasting at Funcas, and Associate Professor at the University of Geneva. Until January 2017, he led the research department of the International Labor Organization. Prior to that, Raymond was the Head of the Employment Analysis and Policy Division of the OECD Economics department, where he led research projects on the Spanish economy, among other subjects. FocusEconomics recognized Funcas as the best overall forecaster of the Spanish economy in its 2016 and 2017 Analyst Forecast Awards.



Roberto Suárez Santos


Secretary-General

- **Tour de table**
- **Concluding remarks**

Next session:

The Private Sector Contribution on Health Emergency Situations

Thursday 26 March 2020, 14:00 – 15:30 (Europe CST)

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