



**International Society for Labour and Social Security Law**  
**Société internationale de droit du travail et de la**  
**sécurité sociale**  
**Sociedad Internacional de Derecho del Trabajo y de la**  
**Seguridad Social**

## **Congresses of Labour and Social Security Law**

### LIST OF THEMES

#### **I. WORLD CONGRESSES**

##### **Ist Congress: Trieste (Italy), 24-27 May 1951**

1. Creation of an international labour law.
2. Creation of a common labour law.
3. Codification of labour law.

##### **IIInd Congress: São Paulo (Brazil), 8-15 August 1954**

1. Individual contract of employment.
2. Collective agreement.
3. Social security.
4. Free-choice themes.

##### **IIIrd Congress: Geneva (Switzerland), 12-14 September 1957**

1. Content, legal effects, application and execution of collective agreements.
2. Conflicts of laws in labour matters; international standards and general principles.

##### **IVth Congress: Brussels (Belgium), 8-15 June 1958**

1. Individual labour relations.
2. Collective labour relations.
3. Social security.
4. The State and the organization of insurance against work injuries.
5. Labour relations and social security in non-metropolitan territories.
6. Federal and supra-national structures and social legislation.

##### **Vth Congress: Lyon (France), 18-22 September 1963**

1. Relationship between trade unions and their members.
2. The settlement of disputes concerning the exercise of disciplinary powers by the employers, including dismissal.
3. Liability of the individual employee for damage done to the employer, to fellow employees and to third parties.
4. The impact of the law of social security on the legal position of the employer in connection with industrial accidents and occupational diseases.

##### **VIth Congress: Stockholm (Sweden), 15-17 August 1966**

1. Legal aspects of the calculation of social security benefits, in particular as regards changes in the cost of living and the level of wages.
2. The difference in the treatment of various categories of employees (manual and non-manual workers, supervisory personnel, managerial staff, public employees, etc.) with regard to law and collective bargaining as well as to industrial practice in general.
3. The present state of law teaching and research in labour law and social security law, and the relations between these disciplines and the surrounding social sciences.

**VIIth Congress: Warsaw (Poland), 14-17 September 1970**

1. The development of workers' protection with particular reference to technological advance.
2. The role of "fault" in social security legislation.
3. Wage policy: The role of the State and of the employers' and employees' organizations.

**VIIIth Congress: Selva di Fasano (Italy), 17-19 September 1974**

1. Rights and functions of trade unions and their representatives at enterprise level.
2. Mergers and other changes in structure and in control of enterprises and their effect upon workers.
3. The adjudication of social insurance claims.

**IXth Congress: Munich (Germany), 12-15 September 1978**

1. Arbitration and the role of courts: The administration of justice in labour law.
2. The situation of the worker in the case of sickness.
3. The codification of the labour law.

**Xth Congress: Washington (United States), 7-10 September 1982**

1. Workers' participation in decisions within undertakings.
2. Termination of employment on the initiative of the employer and income security of the workers' concerned.
3. The position of women in labour law and social security.

**XIth Congress: Caracas (Venezuela), 17-20 September 1985**

1. Procedures and structures of collective bargaining at enterprise and plant level.
2. New aspects of atypical employment relationships.
3. Employment injuries - Benefits and rehabilitation.
4. Methods of comparative labour law.

**XIIth Congress: Madrid (Spain), 20-23 September 1988**

1. Sanctions for violations or non-compliance with labour regulations.
  2. Workers' inventions.
  3. Voluntary pension funds and their relation with compulsory social security schemes.
- Panel discussion: General labour law theory today. Recent developments and trends in the concept of labour law function.

**XIIIth Congress: Athens (Greece), 18-21 September 1991**

1. The impact of economic difficulties in the enterprise on working conditions.
2. Methods of settlement of collective interest disputes.
3. Legal problems of regulation and implementation of a minimum income for everyone.

Panel discussion: Labour law, social security and economy.

**XIVth Congress: Seoul (Korea), 27-30 September 1994**

1. Promotion and regulation of job creation opportunities.
2. Migrant workers (labour law issues).
3. Social security in the year 2000: Potentialities and problems (including international harmonisation).

Panel discussion: Respective influence of foreign and indigenous factors in the development of labour law and social security.

**XVth Congress: Buenos Aires (Argentina), 22-26 September 1997**

1. Discrimination in employment.
2. International dimensions of collective bargaining: Legal aspects.
3. Human rights and social security.

Panel discussion: Labour law and the informal sector.

**XVIth Congress: Jerusalem (Israel), 3-7 September 2000**

1. Industrial relations, including collective disputes, in the public sector
2. Similarities and differences between labour contracts and civil and commercial contracts
3. Retirement pensions (social security): national schemes, social insurances and private funds

Round Table: Labour market and continuous education

**XVII th Congress, Montevideo (Uruguay), 2-5 September 2003**

1. The agents of Collective Bargaining
2. Labour Law and the Fundamental Rights of the Person
3. Social Protection for the Unemployed

Round Table: Labour Law vis-à-vis New Forms of Corporate Organization.

Round Table: Challenges and Perspectives of the Labour Law

**XVIII th World Congress, Paris, 5-8 September 2006**

1. Trade liberalization and labour law and social security.
2. Labour law (in its individual and collective aspects) and productive decentralization.
3. Occupational risks: social protection and the employer's liability.

Round Table: What future for statutory regulation in the field of labour law?

**XIX World Congress, Sydney, 1-4 September 2009**

1. Regulatory frameworks and law enforcement in new forms of employment.
2. Workers' representation and social dialogue at the workplace level.
3. Emerging patterns of social protection in light of structural changes (ageing population, changing family structures, immigration, budgetary constraints, political and ideological realignments).

Round table: Work and family life.  
Workshop: What's new in Labour Law?

## II. REGIONAL CONGRESSES

### Asian Regional Congresses

#### **Ist Congress: Manila (Philippines), 16-19 December 1980**

1. Settlement of labour disputes.
2. Codification of labour law.
3. The position of women in labour law and social security.

#### **IIInd Congress: Seoul (Korea), 14-16 September 1983**

1. Labour relations in essential services.
2. Employment injuries: Benefits and rehabilitation.
3. New forms and aspects of atypical employment relations.

#### **IIIrd Congress: Bangkok (Thailand), 8-11 January 1985**

1. Labour relations in the public sector of the economy, with particular reference to workers's rights and responsibilities.
2. Child labour.
3. Old-age benefit schemes.

Panel discussion: Asian approach to labour relations.

#### **IVth Congress: Singapore (Singapore), 3-6 February 1987**

1. The legal status of workers' and employers' organizations.
  2. Labour law aspects of safety and health protection.
  3. The situation of the worker in case of sickness.
- Panel discussion: The general theory of labour law: Recent developments in ideas about the functions of labour law.

The publication of labour laws in Asian countries.

#### **Vth Congress: Tokyo (Japan), 26-29 March 1990**

1. Statutory regulation of wages in Asian countries.
  2. Dismissal procedures and termination benefits in Asian countries.
  3. Settlement of labour disputes in Asian countries.
- Panel discussion: Investment and labour law: Foreign enterprises and industrial relations in Asia.

#### **VIth Congress: Hobart (Australia), 11-14 February 1996**

1. Technological changes and social protection.
  2. The labour policy issues for the old-age worker.
  3. Law and the protection of non-regular workers.
- Panel discussion: The impact of economic globalisation on labour standards.

### **VIIth Congress MANILA, (Philippines) 22 - 24 November 2001**

1. The right to work - Jobs vs. Labour Standards
  2. Re-examining the role of trade unions in society with emphasis in the informal sector
  3. The protection of children in Labour Law
- Round Table: Globalization: Its effects/impact on the international and national labour standards and social security.

### **VIII Congress: Taipei, 31 October – 3 November 2005**

- 1.- The participation of Women in the Labour Market -- Toward the Goal of Gender Equality in Employment in the 21st Century.
- 2.- The Impetus for Economic Restructuring and the Protection of Workers' Rights.
- 3.- The Asian Experiences on the Old-Age Security or Pension System.

Round Table: The Impact of Globalization on Work Patterns and Labour Relations

## **European Regional Congresses**

### **Ist Congress: Szeged (Hungary), 19-21 September 1984**

1. Methods of comparative labour laws.
2. Conflict of laws in labour law.
3. Current problems of retirement.

### **IIInd Congress: Jesolo (Italy), 8-10 September 1986**

1. Technological change and the employment relationship.
2. Hiring procedures.
3. Employers' responsibility regarding occupational accidents.

### **IIIrd Congress: Paris (France), 13-15 September 1989**

1. Trends towards deregulation and their impact on the theory of the sources of labour law.
2. Legislative and judicial modifications concerning trade union activities and the freedom of strike.
3. New forms of recruitment and precarious employment relations.
4. Restructuring of enterprises and its impact on employment.
5. Flexibilisation of working time.
6. Respective role of public authorities and private initiative in social security policy.

### **IVth Congress: Brussels (Belgium), 7-9 September 1993**

1. Labour law and developments in Europe:
    - a) with reference to the sole European Market;
    - b) with reference to the change from a centralised to a market economy.
  2. Labour law in small and medium-sized undertakings: Flexibility or adjustment.
  3. The role of social security in the struggle against unemployment.
- Panel discussion: Those excluded from labour law and social security.

### **Vth Congress: Leiden (Netherlands), 18-21 September 1996**

1. The future of labour law.
  2. The future of the dismissal law.
  3. The future of the social security law.
- Panel discussion: Labour law: Further separation from civil law?

**VIth Congress: Warsaw (Poland) 13 - 17 September 1999**

1. Social Dialogue - Economic Interdependence and Labour Law
  2. Wage Employment and Self-Employment
  3. Reforms of Social Security Systems
- Round Table: Prospects of the European Union and the Council of Europe's Labour Law

**VIIth Congress: Stockholm (Sweden) 4-6 September 2002**

1. The autonomy of the collective agreement
2. Justifications for sex discrimination in the working life
3. Freedom of movement and transfer of social security rights

**VIII th Congress, Bologna, 21-23 September 2005**

- 1.- Family Allowances.
- 2.- Processes of social law making and implementation within the European Union.
- 3.- Transfer of Undertakings: a Delicate Compromise among Individual Protection, Labour Market and Economic Development.

Round Table: The New Boundaries of Employee Information and Consultation.

Round Table: Challenges in Labour Law and Collective Bargaining in Central European Countries arising out of their integration into the European Union.

Workshop : The respective role of trade union, workers' representatives, public authorities and other stakeholders in transfers takeovers or other transformations in the structure or size of the enterprise.

Workshop : Alternative Dispute Resolution in Labour Law

**IX Congress, Freiburg, Germany: September 16 th to 19 th, 2008**

- 1: Implementation of the equal treatment principle in employment and occupation in the EU and EEC Member States
- 2: Status and protection of migrant workers
- 3: The impact of demographic trends/ developments on pension schemes in Europe

Round Table 1: The impact of information and communication technologies in the field of labour law

Round Table 2: The employer's responsibilities in complex corporate structures

Workshop 1: Systems of law enforcement under labour law

Workshop 2: Qualification and training of lawyers and legal advisors in the field of labour law

**American Regional Congresses**

**Ist Congress: Buenos Aires (Argentina), 27-30 April 1987**

1. The role of collective agreements in the national economy.
2. Prevention of anti-union practices.
3. The impact of new technologies on conditions of work and employment.
4. The protection of workers' claims in crises of enterprises through social security machinery.

**IIInd Congress: San José (Costa Rica); 5-9 March 1990**

1. The settlement of collective labour disputes in the public sector and services.
  2. Social protection vis-à-vis illness, invalidity, old age and death.
  3. Individual labour disputes: Settlement by courts or collective agreements.
- Panel discussion: The purposes of labour law.  
Social consequences of structural adjustment policies.

**IIIrd Congress: Montreal (Canada), 24-27 May 1995**

1. The employee's right to privacy.
  2. The future of collective bargaining and new forms of employment.
  3. Health care: Public and/or private systems?
- Panel discussion: The labour law aspects of the regional economic integration.

**IVth Congress: Santiago (Chile), 11 - 13 November 1998**

1. Globalization and individual Labour Law.
  2. Globalization and Collective Bargaining.
  3. Administrative and financial issues in Social Security.
- Round Table: The Labour Clause, the Social Charter and ILO standards in Integration and Free-Trade schemes.

**V th Congress : Lima (Peru), 16-19 September 2001**

- 1.- Individual labour contracts current issues: The boundaries between dependent and independent work
- 2.- Basic rights and international commerce: Synchronization between economic efficiency and social protection
- 3.- Relations between individual and collective labour rights and the social security

Round Table: New forms of work and the Labour Law

Debate : Recent evolutions of the Labour Law in the European Union

**VI th Congress, Querétaro, Mexico, 17 September 2004**

1. Special labour relations.
2. Internationalization of labour and employment relations within the framework of the Free Trade Agreement for the Americas.
3. Social accountability of multinational enterprises: voluntary codes of labour practices and their private monitoring.

Round Table: Evolution and Recent Trends of the Labour Law in Europe, North America and Latin America.

5. Round Table : Social Security Law: public service or privatization?

**VII Congress, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 31 st October, 2 November 2007**

- 1: The Impact of Employer Economic Difficulties on the Contract of Employment
- 2: Protection against anti-union discrimination
- 3: Workers' protection in case of illness

Round Table: What's new in Labour Law. Regional perspectives?

**VIII Congress, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 25 to 28 May 2010**

1. Current situation and the future of public and private pension systems in the light of the worldwide crisis.
2. Public and private systems of settlement of individual and collective labor disputes
3. The protection of worker's privacy at the workplace

Round Table: The so-called "news forms of employment" and their impact on:

- a) individual employments relations;
- b) collective labour relations; and,
- c) the social protection of workers concerned

Round Table: The use of international law by national courts in the adjudication of labour disputes

**Ibero-American Meetings on Labour Justice**

**1st. Meeting, San José (Costa Rica), 24-25 June 1999**

The principle of celerity in labour litigation.  
 Legal assistance to workers.  
 The principles of Procedural Labour Law.

**2 nd Meeting, Montevideo (Uruguay), 2 September 2003**

How to speed up the procedures in labour litigation ?  
 Case law criteria to determine the existence of an employment relationship.

**D. African Regional Congresses**

**Ist Congress: Tunis (Tunisia), 18-19 April 1991**

1. The origins of labour law in Africa.
2. Principles of labour law and African realities.
3. Role and functions of the State in industrial relations in Africa.
4. Problems of medical insurance in Africa.

**III. Forthcoming congresses of the ISLSSL**

**X European Regional Congress, Seville, Spain, 21-23 September 2011**

1. Labour Law and Industrial Relations in the Light of the Economic and Social Changes.
2. Collective Bargaining Rights in a Globalized Economy
3. Social Protection of the Unemployed

Round Tables:

1. Public and private employment services as intermediaries in the hiring of workers
2. Groups of people who risk labour and social protection

Workshops:

1. The role of the judiciary vis a vis the changes in labour law.
2. Interruptions and suspensions of the employment relationship.

**XX World Congress, Santiago de Chile, 25-28 September 2012**

1. The effectiveness of the Labour Law and the role of the Labour Inspection
2. Sexual Harassment and Mobbing at the Workplace
3. The Right to Strike and its possible conflict with other fundamental rights of the people

Round Tables:

1. What's new in Labour Law?
2. What's new in Social Security Law?
3. What's new in the procedures for adjudicating labour disputes?