

11.3.2009

Consensus to settle pensions dispute

With regard to settling the dispute concerning earnings-related pensions and unemployment and social security issues, the Government and key labour market organisations have reached the following decisions:

1. Reforms concerning unemployment and social security issues will be implemented in accordance with the proposal submitted by key labour market organisations.
2. In 2008, the average expected retirement age among those who had turned 25 was 59.4 years. Guidelines will be drawn to make a concerted effort to raise the average age of exit from the labour market by at least three years by the year 2025.
3. The guidelines will be set out by the end of 2009 in the Pension Negotiation Group of the labour market organisations chaired by Jukka Rantala, Managing Director of the Finnish Centre for Pensions. The Pension Negotiation Group will cooperate with representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (1+1). In the same context, focus will be placed on monitoring to what extent the earnings-related pension scheme reform of 2005 has worked to raise the average retirement age.
4. Achieving the joint objective will require a series of interlocking measures. Special attention will be paid to measures to promote issues such as expertise and well-being at work and longer careers. To this end, key labour market organisations will set up a working group which is to cooperate with representatives from relevant ministries.
5. Once the guidelines mentioned above (items 3 and 4) have been set out, the issue will be taken to tripartite preparation.
6. The objective is to seek alternative models to raising the minimum retirement age as outlined by the Government. The Government will not prepare or implement pensions policy measures deviating from this work. The Government and labour market organisations will assess the effectiveness of the guidelines and proposals after their completion.
7. All issues concerning earnings-related pensions policy will be considered in cooperation with key labour market organisations, as laid down in the Government Programme.

11 March 2009

The Government

Confederation of Finnish Industries EK

Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions – SAK

Finnish Confederation of Professionals STTK

Akava – Confederation of Unions for Professional and Managerial Staff in Finland