Seit Jahren werbe ich dafür, die soziale Sicherung gegen Arbeitslosigkeit, also langes Arbeitslosengeld und Arbeitslosenhilfe wieder herzustellen und damit Hartz IV loszuwerden. Begründung: die Wiederherstellung einer einigermaßen befriedigenden sozialen Sicherheit. Jetzt kommt ein wichtiges konjunkturpolitisches Argument hinzu. Die Einkommen der von der Krise gefährdeten Arbeitnehmer und der Arbeitslosen müssen stabilisiert und verbessert werden. Andernfalls geraten wir in eine Spirale von weiter sinkenden Masseneinkommen, sinkender Nachfrage, sinkender Beschäftigung und wieder sinkenden Einkommen usw. – Selbst die OECD, die seit 1975 mit neoliberalen Sprüchen über die Bedeutung der Flexibilität der Löhne nervt, ist zur Einsicht gekommen. Der Generalsekretär der OECD Gurria warnte gestern in einer Rede vor den G8-Arbeits- und Sozialminister vor dem gefährlichen Absturz und schlägt eine Reihe von sinnvollen Maßnahmen vor. Siehe dazu die Pressemitteilung in Anlage 1 und den Text der Rede selbst in Anlage 2. Albrecht Müller.

Die beiden Dokumente sind leider nur auf Englisch verfügbar. Wenn sie auch in Deutsch vorliegen, reichen wir die Links nach.

Ich wurde von einem persönlichen und fachlichen Freund auf den Vorgang aufmerksam gemacht. Er wie auch sein Informant führten beruflich seit 1975 die Auseinandersetzung mit den neoliberalen Ideologen von der OECD. Ihre Kommentare zu dem Vorgang möchte ich Ihnen nicht vorenthalten:

„die OECD gehört jetzt auch zu den Wendehälsen. …
In der Tat, wenn die Zahlen sich auf dem Arbeitsmarkt auswirken und die Masseneinkommen und deren Perspektiven durch Hartz IV massiv einbrechen, dann geht’s aber im freien Fall nach unten. Ob unsere Oberen das kapieren, da habe ich so meine Bedenken. Also wichtig wäre Alosengeld verlängern, alte Alosenhilfe wieder einführen. Natürlich müssen auch die Konjunkturprogrämmchen ausgedehnt werden. Schöne Grüße, C.F.H.“

„… es ist schon alarmierend, wie schnell die die Kurve kriegen. Alles was des Teufels war, und teilweise mühsam abgeschafft wurde, soll jetzt, hau-ruck, wieder herangeschafft werden. Ist schon doll! Allein dafür sollte man denen die Bezüge kürzen! Oder Orden verleihen?. W.“

Und nun zu den Dokumenten:

Anlage 1

Pressemitteilung der OECD zur Rede des Generalsekretärs der OECD vor dem G8-Gipfel der Arbeits- und Sozialminister vom 30.3.2009

OECD – Paris, 30 March 2009
Massive rise in unemployment needs fast, decisive response, says OECD's Gurria

"Governments need to take quick and decisive action to avoid the financial crisis becoming a fully-blown social crisis with scarring effects on vulnerable workers and low-income households," OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría told G8 Labour and Employment Ministers in Rome today (see attached speech).

Presenting new OECD analysis of the impact of the crisis on employment, he said the short-term labour market outlook is "gloomy". OECD economic projections to be released tomorrow forecast unemployment rates approaching 10% in the OECD area by 2010, compared with the recent low of 5.6% in 2007.

This implies that the crisis could swell the numbers of unemployed in the OECD by about 25 million, by far the largest and most rapid increase in OECD unemployment in the post-war period. The jobs crisis is spreading rapidly around the world, pushing millions of workers and their families into poverty.

"Restoring global growth is an economic and political priority, but also an ethical, moral, social and human imperative. And employment and social policies are an essential component of a successful strategy to bring the OECD and non-OECD countries back on a growth track," he added. He said that most of the fiscal packages to support the economy that G8 and other countries have introduced, or are planning to introduce, include extra funds for labour market and social policy measures.

"The bad news is that these additional funds are rather limited, accounting for about 8-10% of total expenditures in the United States and France and less in most of the other countries. This may turn into a missed opportunity," he said.

Faced with soaring numbers of unemployment benefit applicants, longer unemployment spells and increasing numbers of jobseekers who do not qualify for unemployment benefits, the OECD recommends governments to consider:

- Promoting labour demand while avoiding excess layoffs by credit-constrained

firms. Short-time working subsidies or reduction in social security contributions will help preserve viable jobs, if they are well-targeted on firms facing a temporary fall in demand and workers who will find it difficult to get another job if made redundant.

- Providing adequate safety-nets to job losers and low-income families. In those OECD countries where the maximum duration of benefits is short, temporary extensions could be envisaged to avoid the long-term unemployed drifting into poverty. This should be accompanied by a close monitoring of eligibility conditions to avoid abuses and/or inducing dependence.
  Ensuring that social assistance benefits are adequate and accessible to those who lose their job and do not have access to unemployment insurance benefits.

- Expanding effective active labour market programmes. Public employment services should place emphasis on providing job-search assistance to the most employable job losers. Greater reliance should also be placed on training, particularly if it is tied to labour market needs. For the most hard-to-place unemployed, it would also be advisable to make more use of targeted hiring and work-experience subsidies and public sector job-creation measures.

- Decisive actions targeted on at-risk young people have to be taken now. For example, subsidies for apprenticeship contracts for unskilled youth and promotion of second-chance schools could help reduce the risk that they will enter the labour market without qualifications. Consideration could also be given to raising the school-leaving age (to say 18). If complemented by measures to diversify educational choices and focused on the acquisition of qualifications that meet business needs, this reform could prove very effective in ensuring that youth leave education with a minimum skill level.

- Governments are likely to face strong political pressure to offer early retirement and easier access to disability benefits, especially for the older unemployed. In the past, virtually no workers offered these benefits returned to the labour force when the economy recovered. Such pressure should be resisted.

While developed countries mostly have welfare systems that can soften the social impact of rising unemployment, this is not the case in many developing countries,

Mr. Gurría noted. “Only about one quarter of vulnerable developing countries have the ability to finance job creation or safety-net programs,” he said. In this context, he stressed, there is an urgent need to to address the world’s labour crisis “through enhanced and more inclusive international co-operation”.

For further information, journalists should contact Stefano Scarpetta, head of the OECD’s Employment division or the OECD media division (tel. + 33 1 45 24 97 00 or email: news.contact@oecd.org)

Spencer Wilson

Media relations manager
Public Affairs & Communications Directorate
OECD

2, rue André Pascal / 75775 Paris Cedex 16 / France
Tel : +33 1 45 24 81 18
Mobile : +33 617 900 693
spencer.wilson@oecd.org
www.oecd.org

Anlage 2
Die Rede des Generalsekretärs der OECD [PDF – 164 KB]