

General

The Committee recalls that Convention No. 135 completes the two ILO fundamental Conventions Nos. 87 and 98 in the area of freedom of association by dealing with additional questions. The Governing Body has included it in the list of Conventions whose ratification should be promoted and has requested information on the obstacles and difficulties that might prevent or delay its ratification by States. In this respect, the Committee wishes to emphasize that this Convention aims – given the effective recognition of freedom of association in accordance with the principles of Conventions Nos. 87 and 98 – to guarantee the actual presence in the enterprise of workers' representatives, regardless of whether they originate in trade unions or have been elected, and for those member States with a system of dual channel implementation as far as the presence of the elected representatives does not undermine the rights of the trade union representatives. It emerges from the reports of States of very different traditions and levels of development, that the open nature of the Convention which does not aim only to protect the representatives but also to facilitate the exercise of their functions, has not given rise to difficulties in its implementation. The evolution of industrial relations in the last 30 years in an increasingly cooperative and decentralized context, demonstrates the usefulness and constant relevance of this Convention.