Theme 1: European Social Dialogue: is the role of European social partners changing? Are we moving to a new social dimension?

- the role of the social partners in the New Economic Governance

CORPORATIST DELUSION: GOVERNANCE

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Abstract:

Governance is neither a “style” of management, nor a “process” of participation-negotiation, but a type of government, where the public power is directly handed over to the capital order. Governance, first and foremost, draws attention with its unique feature of overlooking class balance in liberal corporatist practices, which is based on tripartite negotiations among “government-employer-employee”. Employers take their place in this system as private sector, but the employee side is embedded in NGOs. Nevertheless, NGOs are not confined to employees only; associations, occupational organizations and cooperatives of capital may take place under this title as well and they are treated equally. Therefore, right of participation of the capital is recognised repeatedly in this participative formulation both as one side of the tripartite system and as one element of NGOs, the third pillar of the tripartite negotiation process. In short, corporatist formulation, which is renewed by the principle of governance, is designed as “state (or bureaucracy)-private sector-NGO” and accordingly, the power of the capital is clearly favoured in this formulation. In this sense, the place and the importance of the concept of governance both in general economy and social dialogue will be critically discussed in this study.