

Dear Dr. Chichilnisky,

On behalf of the Taskforce Part-Time Plus I would like to invite you as one of the keynote speakers for the [‘24orMore’ International conference on increasing female labour participation](#).

The conference takes place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands on November 5th and 6th 2009.

According to the recent MENA report ‘Shaping the future’ by the World Bank, national income growth and prosperity depend on the availability of a sufficiently large and skilled workforce that has the ability to adapt to the changing needs of society. Meanwhile, Europe and several other regions are facing a shrinking population and labour force. Assuming that participation levels remain unchanged, Central Asia, China, the East-Asian high-income countries, Europe and North America will collectively lose 216 million workers between now and 2050. The European Union alone stands to lose 66 million workers. The latter implies that there will be two retirees for every active person. At the same time, the participation rate of women in the labour force is far below their potential when compared to their male counterparts.

If we take the Netherlands as an example, we see that the majority of women is working part-time jobs of less than 24 hours. To compensate for this, innovative solutions, measures and instruments are required. The majority of Dutch women are not financially independent and have reduced career prospects. To date, employers do not fully use innovative solutions and instruments to maximise the potential of women. This is regrettable, from an economic as well as from a social or personal perspective. Within this discussion the role of men is also relevant.

This international conference will encourage the sharing of new approaches and instruments towards increasing female labour participation. It is organised by the Taskforce aimed at increasing female labour participation, initiated in 2007 by the Dutch government and its social partners (employers’ associations and trade unions).

The delegates include (inter)national academics, the Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science and the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour as well as representatives of employees and employers and NGOs.

It would be an honour to welcome you as one of our keynote speakers.

Awaiting your reply.

Kind regards,

Lise- Lotte Kerkhof