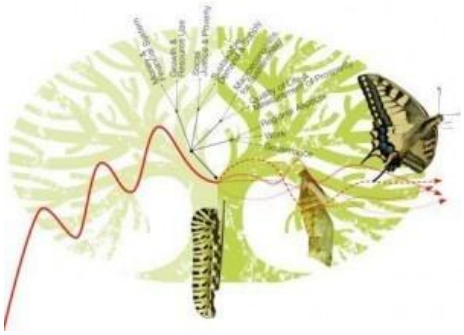
Christa Schlager
(Chamber of Labour Vienna)

Johannes Schweighofer
(Federal Ministry of Labour)



Parallel Session VIII: **Work**

Chair**: Johannes Schweighofer** (Federal Ministry of Labour)
Rapporteur: **Christa Schlager** (Chamber of Labour Vienna)

Main Points:
In public and in economics there are currently two parallel discussions, one concerning growth and jobs and the other concerning growth and climate. These discussions are largely unrelated, there is hardly interaction between these two debates. The panel tried to overcome this division, but also faced its limits.

„Growth and Jobs“ is the main aim of the current agenda of the European Commission. The Commission still believes that growth is the solution to get out of our economic and financial crises, as **Karl Pichelmann** (ECFIN) confirmed in his statement. He explained that, without growth major social and economic problems such as increasing inequality cannot be solved.

Christer Sanne (Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden) argued to the contrary that growth is part of the problem. Growth does not solve the problem of inequality, and furthermore growth enhances the problem of climate change. We should work less, not more: the reduction of working hours could be a key solution to save the climate and supports human well being more than consumerism.

Ingrid Mairhuber (FORBA) pointed to another view of work. The current concept of work is exclusively focused on the male breadwinner model. Unpaid work, voluntary work and moonlighting are ignored. One should bring the care economy into the focus of the discussion. This would change the idea of work and the distribution of work between women and men to the benefit of the society.