Summary

"Decent Work – rechtsphilosophische Anmerkungen zur Mindestlohndebatte"

by Joachim Renzikowski

In the discussion about decent work and minimum wages, a look into Johann Gottlieb Fichte's philosophy of the state may help. For Fichte, every rational constitution is based upon the principle that each member of the society shall be able to live from his labour, and the state has the duty to set the necessary conditions – as it is laid down in article 15 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights: "Every individual shall have the right to work under equitable and satisfactory conditions." Fichte's reasoning of justice is not the imagination of a free market which creates commutative justice but of a corporately organized welfare state in which no labour exploitation may take place.