

# [ ETUC newsletter ]



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## Figure of the month

### 25.751 million unemployed in Europe

In September 2012, 25.751 million people (10.6% of the active population) were unemployed in the European Union, of whom 18.490 million were in the euro zone (11.7% of the active population). Compared with August 2012, the number of people unemployed increased by 169 000 in the EU and by 146 000 in the euro zone.

(Source: Eurostat)

## Note

**14 / 11 / 2012**  
European Day of Action  
and Solidarity

**For Jobs  
and Solidarity  
in Europe  
No to  
Austerity**

European Trade Union Confederation  
www.etuc.org • 0145000022



Dear Readers,



The European Trade Union Confederation is calling for a European Day of Action and Solidarity on 14 November, in favour of jobs and solidarity in Europe and against austerity. The ETUC has, for some time, criticised the austerity measures which continue to drag Europe into economic stagnation and recession and are tearing the European social model apart. These measures are not restoring confidence. They are worsening the imbalances and creating more unfairness. The gravity of the crisis is such that Europe's political leaders must completely revise their approach. The social situation is urgent. Austerity and systematic challenges to the social model have done nothing to improve the situation. Some observers have started to describe existing policies as "austericide" – the cases of Greece, Spain and Portugal speak for themselves. Even the International Monetary Fund recently admitted that it made mistakes in calculating the impact of such measures on citizens. We were not mistaken when we concluded that Europe has a social debt that must be urgently paid.

The tone is starting to change, but there is no escaping the fact that it is taking a long time to translate words into deeds. A genuine change of course is a must. We are calling for a Social Compact for Europe with real social dialogue, an economic policy that fosters quality jobs, economic solidarity between countries and social justice.

The objective of the Day of Action on 14 November is to bring about a change of direction in policies and to lay down the foundations for sustainable economic growth that creates quality jobs. Everyone's participation and commitment will be needed to make a success of the mobilisation on 14 November. We have to make our voice heard.

Join us on #14Nov2012. "For jobs and solidarity in Europe. No to austerity."

**Bernadette Ségol,**  
ETUC General Secretary



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# [ETUC in action]

## MAJOR MEETINGS

### ETUC Executive Committee

17–18/10/12 – The Executive Committee of the ETUC met in Brussels. The crisis was the main topic of the discussions. In a [unanimously adopted declaration](#), the Executive Committee of the European trade union called for a **day of action and solidarity on 14 November 2012**, mobilising the European trade union movement behind ETUC policies as set down in the Social Compact for Europe. The aim of this day of action, which will include strikes, demonstrations, rallies and other events, is to express the **ETUC's strong opposition to austerity measures and its equally strong determination to achieve sustainable economic growth**.

Declaration of the Executive Committee: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10439>

## CONFERENCES

### Conference on European Works Councils

#### “After the Recast: First Lessons and Future Potential”

16/10/12 – The ETUC organised a conference dedicated to **the impact of the recast of the European Works Councils (EWCs) Directive** on EWC agreements and the implications for workers in multinational companies on the functioning of such key structures. More than a year after the expiry of the transposition period of the “new” Directive into national legislations, European and national EWC experts and practitioners assessed to what extent progress in the EU legal framework represented concrete improvements for EWCs. The conference was organized in the framework of the [Infopoint](#) project.

Programme of the conference:  
<http://www.etuc.org/a/10422>

Section of the ETUC website dedicated to EWCs: <http://www.etuc.org/r/57>



### ETUC conference on Green Workplaces

09/10/12 – The ETUC organised the conference “Green Workplace Representatives” in Brussels where [trade unionists and shop stewards from across Europe shared their experiences in greening their workplaces](#). Representatives from the European Commission as well as companies took part in the conference. During this event, the European Trade Union also presented a [handbook](#) to assist in increasing worker awareness of the environmental performance of their workplaces.



Programme of the conference:  
<http://www.etuc.org/a/10388>

ETUC press release:  
<http://www.etuc.org/a/10406>

# [Trade Union Agenda]

October – November 2012

17/10/2012	ETUC Steering Committee (Brussels)	
17–18/10/2012	ETUC Executive Committee (Brussels)	
06/11/2012	ETUC Steering Committee (Nicosia)	
14/11/2012	#14Nov2012 – European Day of Action and Solidarity (Europe)	<a href="#">More information</a>
14/11/2012	Meeting of the Group II ‘Workers’ of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
14–15/11/2012	Congress of the Confederation of Trade Unions of the Slovak Republic (KOZ–SR) (Bratislava)	<a href="#">More information</a>



## [ETUC in action]

14 November 2012: European Day of Action and Solidarity

# #14Nov2012

## For Jobs and Solidarity in Europe No to Austerity



The Executive Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) [called for a Day of Action and Solidarity across Europe on 14 November](#), in order to mobilise the European trade union movement behind the ETUC policies set out in the '[Social compact for Europe](#)'.

By this day of action, **the ETUC intends to show that it strongly opposes the austerity measures which are plunging Europe into economic stagnation and recession as well as dismantling the European social model. These measures, far from restoring confidence, are only aggravating imbalances and creating injustices.**

For the European trade union movement, **a real change of route is needed in order to achieve sustainable economic growth**, bringing with it quality jobs.

The Day of Action and Solidarity organized by the ETUC will include **strikes, demonstrations, rallies and other actions**, depending on the countries. A [Google Map](#) will show the different actions being organized at European level.

You can follow all the events of the day on the ETUC web site [www.etuc.org](http://www.etuc.org) as well as on the ETUC's social networks:

-  Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CESETUC>
-  Twitter: [http://twitter.com/etuc\\_ces](http://twitter.com/etuc_ces).

A Twitter "Hashtag" #14Nov2012 is now available for this European mobilisation.

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### Tools:

- ETUC Executive Committee Declaration calling for a Day of Action:  
<http://www.etuc.org/a/10439>
- Poster:  
[http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/Affiche\\_A4\\_EN-2.pdf](http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/Affiche_A4_EN-2.pdf)
- Flyer:  
[http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/Tract\\_A4\\_EN.pdf](http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/Tract_A4_EN.pdf)
- Map of mobilisations:  
<http://www.etuc.org/a/10446>



# [Focus on the EU and trade union positions]

## Council of Europe rightly condemns Greek labour law reforms

26/10/12 – The ETUC welcomed [the decisions of the European Committee of Social Rights](#) (ECSR), the main supervisory body to the Council of Europe Social Charters. In the ECSR's opinion, **certain labour law reforms recently implemented in Greece under the Memorandum of Understanding** it has with the European Commission (EC) – European Central Bank (ECB) – International Monetary Fund (IMF) Troika **are a clear violation of workers' rights**. *"We agree with the ECSR that measures to force greater employment flexibility, combat unemployment, limit public expenditure and/or relieve constraints on business activity, as they are taken now throughout practically all Member States even independently of direct pressure from the Troika, cannot be taken at any price and should not deprive broad categories of employees of their fundamental rights"* said Bernadette Ségol.

ETUC press release: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10476>

## Trade unions united in opposing the EU-Colombia-Peru trade agreement

05/09/12 – Trade union leaders from Europe, Colombia and Peru reaffirmed **their opposition to the draft EU-Colombia-Peru Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** in meetings with Members of the European parliament as well as Commission officials in Brussels. "The international trade union movement is united in this call for a vote against the FTA. To do otherwise would disregard the appalling human rights record in Colombia and continued labour violations in Peru and would damage the EU's reputation as a leading force in the promotion of human rights and basic freedoms", they wrote in a [joint letter](#) sent to Members of the European Parliament ahead of the European Parliament's decision on the FTA.

ETUC press release: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10412>

## Workers' protection lost in nanospace?

04/10/12 – The ETUC reacted to the publication of the [Second Regulatory Review on Nanomaterials](#) edited by the European Commission. For the European trade union, **the Commission's efforts in the field of nanomaterials are insufficient for ensuring adequate protection and safety for workers**. *"Although technology is developing apace, we are not seeing the Commission adequately address the regulatory framework. The precautionary principle is fundamental for guaranteeing public and occupational health and safety – the Commission must take action to ensure it is at the centre of EU nanotechnology policy"* said Judith Kirton-Darling, ETUC Confederal Secretary. In a [joint letter](#) sent to the European Commission, in cooperation with other stakeholders, the ETUC repeated its significant concerns about the quality of the review and the need to ensure the precautionary principle, as well as worker health and safety.

ETUC press release: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10394>

## EU external trade and investment agreements must advance human rights

24/10/2012 – At the 3rd ASEM Social Partners' Forum in Hanoi, Vietnam, which gathered together social partners and Labour and Employment Ministers from Europe and Asia, Bernadette Ségol called for all **EU trade and investment agreements to include binding commitments on trade union rights**. Furthermore, in the context of negotiations for free trade agreements, the ETUC insists on the inclusion of **Sustainable Development Chapters** covering labour and environmental concerns.

ETUC press release: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10445>  
Speaking notes of Bernadette Ségol: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10462>





## [EU Agenda] October – November 2012

04/10/2012	Employment and Social Affairs Council (Luxembourg)	<a href="#">More information</a>
04-05/10/2012	Informal meeting of Ministers for Education (Nicosia)	<a href="#">More information</a>
08/10/2012	Eurogroup Meeting (Luxembourg)	<a href="#">More information</a>
09/10/2012	ECOFIN Council (Luxembourg)	<a href="#">More information</a>
10-11/10/2012	Competitiveness Council (Luxembourg)	<a href="#">More information</a>
15/10/2012	Foreign Affairs Council (Luxembourg)	<a href="#">More information</a>
16/10/2012	General Affairs Council (Luxembourg)	<a href="#">More information</a>
18-19/10/2012	European Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
22-25/10/2012	Plenary Session of the European Parliament (Strasbourg)	
25/10/2012	Environnement Council (Luxembourg)	<a href="#">More information</a>
25-26/10/2012	Justice and Home Affairs Council (Luxembourg)	<a href="#">More information</a>
29/10/2012	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Luxembourg)	<a href="#">More information</a>
06/11/2012	Informal Meeting of Ministers for Cohesion Policy (Nicosia)	<a href="#">More information</a>
07-08/11/2012	Mini Plenary Session of the European Parliament (Brussels)	
09/11/2012	ECOFIN Council dedicated to EU Budget (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
12/11/2012	Eurogroup meeting (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
13/11/2012	ECOFIN Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
14-15/11/2012	Plenary Session of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
19-22/11/2012	Plenary Session of the European Parliament (Strasbourg)	
19/11/2012	Foreign Affairs Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
20/11/2012	General Affairs Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
22-23/11/2012	Extraordinary European Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
26/11/2012	General Affairs Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
26-27/11/2012	Education, Youth, Culture Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
29/11/2012	Foreign Affairs Council dedicated to trade (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>

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**Please pass this newsletter on to your colleagues and contacts**

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