

## [ ETUC newsletter ]



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## Figure of the month

## 14 million

young Europeans not in employment or education

More than 14 million young people in Europe are not in employment, education or training (NEET) and their number is increasing due to the economic crisis. According to some findings, in 2011 the economic loss to society of not integrating them was estimated at €153 billion, in addition to the inestimable costs of their disengagement from society in general. (Source : Eurofound).

## 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 • #14Nov2012



Dear readers,



Our day of action and solidarity on 14 November, 'For jobs and solidarity in Europe – No to austerity' was a resounding success. It is a landmark in the history of the ETUC. The extensive media coverage is testament to this. I should like to thank the hundreds of thousands of people who responded to our appeal and came on to the streets to protest against the brutality of the austerity measures and demand a change of political direction.

The scale of the mobilisation and the determination of the labour movement should give Europe's leaders food for thought. They should admit that austerity is a failure in both economic and social terms. Europe's citizens have had enough. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) recently found that the austerity measures taken in Greece are leading to violations of basic rights, specifically with regard to the key principles of free collective bargaining, which underpin democracy and industrial peace. This is yet another confirmation that we are right in our rejection of these disastrous policies.

We will not stop repeating that it is impossible to continue along the path of austerity, because it is counter-productive. The economic indicators are getting worse. Poverty and inequalities are on the increase. As our Social Compact for Europe clearly shows, it is solidarity that will offer us a way of sustainably securing our common future and climbing up out of the crisis. Yet it is regrettable to note that the political climate is not progressing positively in that direction, as we can see from the failure of the negotiations in the European Council on the EU's multi-annual financial framework.

The hundreds of thousands of Europeans who took part in our mobilisation on 14 November are demanding more fairness and greater solidarity, and I can clearly pledge: we shall not give up.

**Bernadette Ségol,**  
ETUC General Secretary



**European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)**

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# [ETUC in action]

## #14Nov2012

### 14 November 2012 : European Day of Action and Solidarity A strong mobilisation across all of Europe

The European Day of Action and Solidarity organized by the ETUC resulted in a [strong mobilisation across Europe](#).

The [Action Day "#14Nov2012"](#) included several types of actions according to different countries: **strikes, demonstrations, rallies as well as solidarity actions.**


[Hundreds of thousands of people](#) demonstrated in a large number of European cities against the brutality of austerity measures.



**14 / 11 / 2012**  
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By this day of action, the ETUC has shown that [it strongly opposes](#) the austerity measures which are plunging Europe into economic stagnation and recession as well as dismantling the European social model.

*"Europe's leaders should recognize the full magnitude of the European mobilization on 14 November. They are wrong not to listen to the anger of the people who are taking to the streets. By sowing austerity, we are reaping recession, rising poverty and social anxiety. It is impossible to pursue the path of austerity, which is a total failure. They must urgently address the issues of jobs and social fiscal justice and they must stop their attacks on wages, social protection and public services. We are calling for a social compact for Europe with a proper social dialogue, an economic policy that fosters quality jobs, and economic solidarity among the countries of Europe. We urgently need to change course" said Bernadette Ségol.*

#### Useful links:

- ETUC web site page dedicated to the Day of Action: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10446>
- Flyer: [http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/Tract\\_A4\\_EN.pdf](http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/Tract_A4_EN.pdf)
- Map of mobilisation: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10446>



**Photos of the Day of Action:**  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/etuc-ces>



**Videos of the Day of Action:**  
<http://www.youtube.com/etucces>



# [Trade Union Agenda]

November – December 2012

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>
01–04/12/2012	4th Trade Union Summit EU–Latin America (Santiago)	
05/12/2012	ETUC Steering Committee (Brussels)	
05–06/12/2012	ETUC Executive Committee (Brussels)	
12/12/2012	Meeting of the Group II 'Workers' of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	

# [EU Agenda]

November – December 2012

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 consacrated to trade (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
03/12/2012	Eurogroup Meeting (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
03/12/2012	Energy Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
04/12/2012	ECOFIN Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
06–07/12/2012	Justice and Home Affairs Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
06–07/12/2012	Employment and Social Affairs Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
10/12/2012	Foreign Affairs Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
10–13/12/2012	Session plénière du Parlement européen (Strasbourg)	
10–11/12/2012	Competitiveness Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
11/12/2012	General Affairs Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
12–13/12/2012	Plenary Session of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
13–14/12/2012	European Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
17/12/2012	Environnent Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>



# [Focus on the EU and trade union positions]

## The Annual Growth Survey shows that the European austerity policy is moving Europe further and further away from the objectives of the EU2020 strategy

30/11/12 – As the Annual Growth Survey (AGS) 2013 is published, the ETUC called on the European Commission and Europe's political leaders **to stop austerity and change political orientation**. A quick stock take at the onset of the 3rd European Semester shows that the European Union is falling on nearly all the Europe 2020 Strategy targets, which set the roadmap for jobs and growth in Europe for the next decade.

ETUC press release: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10601>

## ILO rings alarm bells on austerity measures

16/11/12 – The ETUC welcomed a recent [International Labour Organisation \(ILO\) report](#) strongly criticising austerity measures taken in Greece over the last years. In this year's November session, the **ILO Committee on Freedom of Association found a number of repeated and extensive breaches of key principles on collective bargaining and an important deficit of social dialogue**. The Committee recalled again that these are key fundamental rights, linked to the very basis of democracy and social peace, and it highlighted the need for ILO assistance to restore social dialogue in Greece. *"Under pressure from the Troika, national governments are pushed to take measures which attack collective bargaining rights. We should take seriously the ILO message that this situation cannot continue"* said Bernadette Ségol.

ETUC press release:  
<http://www.etuc.org/a/10577>

## Time for the European Council to deliver on the maternity leave Directive

28/11/12 – The ETUC and the European Women's Lobby (EWL) representing millions of working women across Europe, wrote an [open letter](#) calling on EU leaders to move forward on the revision of EU maternity legislation. Both organizations are very concerned that over two years have passed since the European Parliament adopted its first reading position on the European Commission's proposal to revise the Pregnant Workers' Directive, and that no official response has been forthcoming from the European Council. **Refusal to adopt a strong maternity directive is sending a negative message to society as a whole.**

ETUC press release:  
<http://www.etuc.org/a/10590>





# [Focus on the EU and trade union positions]

## ETUC calls on climate negotiators to put Just Transition into action

27/11/12 – On the occasion of the start of the 18th UN Conference on climate (COP 18) in Qatar, European trade unions are calling on international negotiators to raise their ambitions to reach a global, binding and comprehensive agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and guarantee a [socially Just Transition](#) towards an energy- and resource-efficient society.

ETUC press release:  
<http://www.etuc.org/a/10584>

## Colombia–Peru Free Trade Agreement: the ETUC condemns the vote in the European Parliament

27/11/12 – The ETUC and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) repeated their opposition to the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) of the EU with Colombia and Peru recently endorsed by the International Trade Committee of the European Parliament. The trade union movement [is opposed](#) to a trade deal which has not adequately addressed the continuing violence and harassment of trade unionists and human rights defenders.

ETUC press release:  
<http://www.etuc.org/a/10587>

## Posting of workers: the ETUC rejects the draft EP report on the Enforcement Directive

12/11/12 – The ETUC strongly rejected the draft report on the Enforcement Directive on the posting of workers submitted by Danuta Jazłowiecka, Member of the European Parliament. For the ETUC, the Jazłowiecka report would further encourage certain employers to set up artificial company structures, such as letter box companies, with a view to circumventing the applicable national labour laws and collective agreements. *“The report shows a lack of understanding of the situation of posted workers. We urge all Members of the European Parliament to reject the report and reflect on how to combat exploitation and social dumping at EU level and to initiate meaningful dialogue with trade unions and labour inspectors in order to find sustainable solutions”* said Veronica Nilsson, ETUC Confederal Secretary.

ETUC press release: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10558>

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