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European trade union news n°73 - January 2013

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European trade union news



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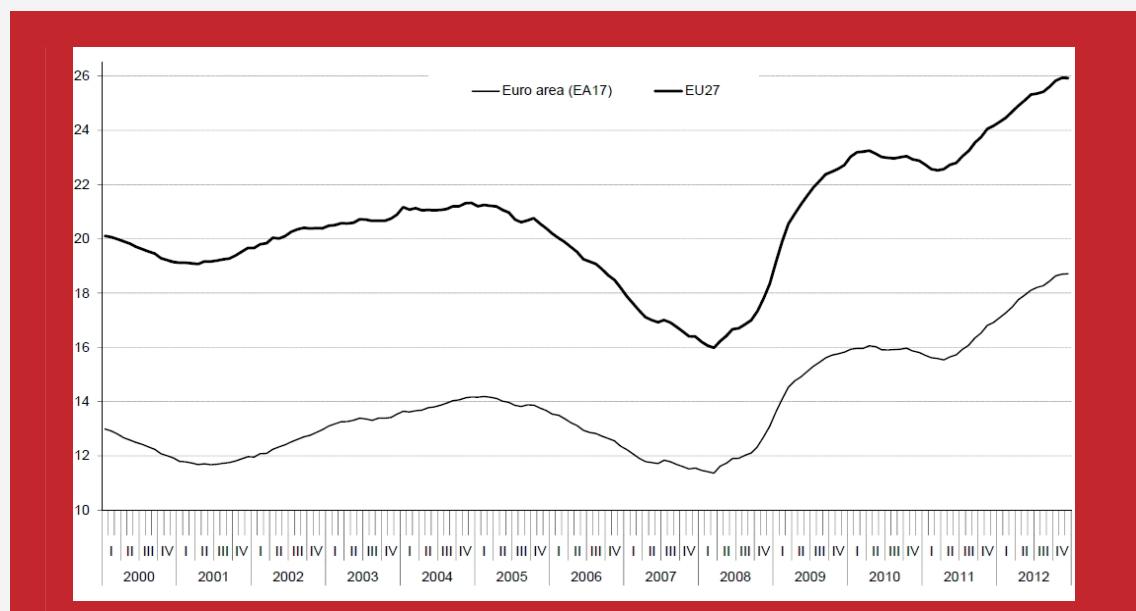
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[Once upon a time, the ETUC creation in 1973](#)

FIGURE OF THE MONTH

Euro area and EU27 unemployed (in millions)



Source: Eurostat

Trade union news



The ETUC celebrates its 40th anniversary

The ETUC celebrated its 40th anniversary. The only organisation that represents workers at European level was founded officially on 7 February 1973. The celebration was held in conjunction with a conference on 28 January in Madrid. This event was attended by many European trade union leaders as well as officials from the European institutions. On this occasion, the ETUC adopted a [new logo](#).

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10764>

No to the “à la carte” EU mooted by Prime Minister Cameron

In a speech in London on 23 January, the Prime Minister David Cameron has vowed to renegotiate Britain's future in the EU by 2017. The European Trade Union condemned the orientation taken by the British Prime Minister. For the ETUC, the EU is not just a free trade zone.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10751>

Financial Transaction Tax

The European Trade Union welcomes the ECOFIN decision to launch an enhanced cooperation procedure

The ETUC welcomes the decision of the ECOFIN Council (Economic and Financial Affairs Council) to launch an enhanced cooperation procedure with a view to introducing a financial transaction tax (FTT) in Europe. An initial group of 11 EU member states have announced that they would take part in this.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10748>

REACH

Trade unions again help to raise awareness in companies

The ETUC and [industriAll European Trade Union](#) have launched another extensive information campaign aimed at companies that market or use chemicals. The objective is to call European firms' attention, especially SMEs, to their obligations under REACH, the EU regulation on chemicals.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10737>

Worsening of the social situation in Europe: ambitious measures are urgently needed

Europe's leaders must pay serious heed to the [Commission's report on the development of employment and the social situation in Europe](#), published on 8 January. This document confirms the gloomy prospects in terms of unemployment, the worsening of the social situation and purchasing power, and the rise in poverty. The ETUC believes that ambitious measures are urgently needed to get us out of the mire.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10707>

The European Trade Union welcomes the vote of the Parliament on restructuring and anticipation of change

At the plenary session in Strasbourg on 15 January, the European Parliament (EP) adopted with a [large majority](#) a report on 'Information and consultation of workers, anticipation and management of restructuring' urging the European Commission to draft a law to manage restructuring in Europe. The European Trade Union welcomed this vote and asks the European Commission to act now accordingly.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10723>

The ETUC condemns government strike breaking in Greece

The European trade union movement condemned the use of civil mobilisation legislation by the Greek authorities to break industrial action by workers fighting to maintain a collectively agreed public sector wages scheme. The legislation, which has scarcely ever been invoked since the collapse of Greece's military dictatorship in 1974 and can lead to terms of imprisonment of up to five years, has now been used against striking metro workers in Athens.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10783>

Social dumping

EFFAT, EFBWW and ETF took to the streets of Brussels

On 23 January, the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT), the European Federation of Building and Wood Workers (EFBWW) and the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) demonstrated in Brussels against social dumping in Europe.

More information:

EFFAT: <http://www.effat.eu>

EFBWW: <http://www.efbww.org>

ETF: <http://www.itfglobal.org/ETF/>

European trade union agenda - February 2013

01/02 : Meeting of Employment Committee with the social partners (Brussels)

07/02: Informal ETUC meeting "A roadmap for the completion of EMU" (Brussels)

13/02 : Meeting of the Group II "Workers" of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)

21-23/02 : Congress of CC.OO (Madrid)

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