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European trade union news n°74 - February 2013

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FIGURE OF THE MONTH

One million jobs lost

In 2012, one million jobs were lost in the Euro area. According to the latest Economic Winter Forecast by the European Commission, the increase in unemployment will continue throughout 2013, averaging out at 12.2% for Euro area overall. (Source: Le Monde)

Trade union news





14 March 2013 - European Trade Union action



**Together for a better future:
No to austerity! Yes to jobs for young people!**

Ahead of the European Summit scheduled for 14 and 15 March, the European Trade Union is organising a **European Trade Union action on 14 March against austerity and for jobs for young people**. For the ETUC, austerity is not working and an urgent change of direction is needed. One of the action's priorities will be to focus on young people who are paying the heaviest price for the crisis and austerity. In the context of this mobilisation, the ETUC will organise a **European trade union rally** in cooperation with the Belgian trade unions (FGTB/ABVV, CSC/ACV, CGSLB/ACLVB) on 14 March in the EU district in Brussels.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10843>

The ETUC welcomes adoption of a Youth guarantee by the EPSCO Council

The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) adopted the Youth Guarantee yesterday. The ETUC welcomes this decision which guarantees that every young person will get the offer of a quality job, additional training, apprenticeship or an internship within four months of leaving school or after starting his/her unemployment period. The Youth Guarantee also offers some financial support, even if insufficient to cover all needs.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10913>

The ETUC deplores austerity budget



The ETUC deplores the deal on the multiannual financial framework recently adopted by the European Council on 7-8 February. For the European Trade Union, which [demanded a budget for the period 2014-2020 coherent with the ambitions fixed by Member States and the objectives targeted in the 2020 Strategy](#), the adoption of an austerity budget is a bad signal for the European Union.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10822>

European Commission Economic Winter Forecasts: Wrong and Misleading

The European Commission has recently published its economic winter forecasts. According to the Commission's message, a recovery is in the making as the markets' confidence in the future is increasing. The ETUC thinks this message is

wrong and misleading. To avoid the recession from continuing and even deepening, the Commission has to break with the strategy of austerity and stop its attack on wages.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10887>

Financial Transaction Tax

The ETUC welcomes the Commission's new proposal



The ETUC welcomes the Commission's decision to introduce a financial transaction tax (FTT). This tax will help discourage financial speculation and identify new sources of revenues for countries that need them.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10855>

European Parliament opinion legitimises social dumping and exploitation of workers

The European Trade Union strongly rejects the recently-adopted opinion of the internal market committee on the Enforcement Directive on the posting of workers. This document, which was forwarded as an opinion to the Employment and Social Affairs Committee (the leading Committee in this dossier) would mean that the protection of workers would become secondary to internal market objectives.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10874>

Tunisia: assassination of Chokri Belaid

The ETUC supports the call for a general strike by UGTT

The assassination of Chokri Belaid, General Secretary and co-founder of the Popular Front, came as a profound shock to the ETUC. For the European Trade Union, this is undoubtedly the work of a counter-revolutionary milieu against the achievements of the democratic revolution and against Tunisian civil society. The ETUC reiterates its full solidarity with its sister organisation, the General Tunisian Workers' Union (UGTT) and with its call for a general strike.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10819>



Our members' mobilisations

9 February: [National demonstration in Ireland organised by ICTU](#)

20 February: General strike in Greece called by [GSEE](#) and [ADEDY](#)

21 February: National demonstration in Belgium organised by [CSC](#), [FGTB](#) and [CGSLB](#)

European trade union agenda - March 2013

04/03 : Executive Committee of the Pan-European Regional Council (PERC) (Brussels)

05/03: ETUC Steering Committee (Brussels)

05-06/03 : ETUC Executive Committee (Brussels)

14/03 : [European trade union action](#)

20/03 : Meeting of the Group II "Workers" of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)

22-23/03 : Congress of the [Greek General Confederation of Labour](#) (Alexandroupolis)

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