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European trade union news n°75 - March 2013

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European trade union news



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FIGURE OF THE MONTH

Equal Pay Day Women in Europe work 59 days 'for free'

According to the latest figures published by the Eurostat, the average difference between women's and men's hourly earnings across the EU is about 16.2%. Due to this pay gap, the extra number of days that women would need to work to match the amount earned by men is currently 59 days on average per year. (Source: Eurostat)

Trade union news



European trade union rally



15,000 people gathered in Brussels against austerity and for jobs



On the occasion of the European Summit on 14 and 15 March, following the call of the ETUC, 15,000 workers from several European countries gathered to urge European leaders to change course. For the European trade union, austerity is not working. It is driving the economy into recession and forcing the most vulnerable citizens into poverty. Only a change of economic and political governance can improve employment and growth

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

Photos and [videos](#) of the European trade union action

The European Council must respond to a social emergency



The economic and social consequences of the crisis (the explosion of unemployment, the runaway loss of job security, the growing inequalities, etc.) have reached the limits of what is socially acceptable in a number of EU countries. For the ETUC, the European Council of 14 and 15 March must respond to this social emergency. The ETUC has called for a change of course with the emphasis on sustainable recovery with more and better jobs, based on an investment plan equivalent to at least 1% of European GDP each year. On the occasion of the European Summit, the ETUC organised a European rally to call for an end to austerity and to focus on employment, particularly for young people.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11002>

Proposed roadmap for a social dimension of the EMU

Declaration of the ETUC Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the ETUC met in Brussels on 5 and 6 March. The Committee adopted a [declaration on the proposed roadmap for a social dimension of the European monetary union \(EMU\)](#). The crisis, migrations, health and safety of workers as well as EU investment policy were the main subjects for discussion.

Declaration of the Executive Committee: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10932>

8 March: International Women's Day

Women are paying the highest price for the crisis

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the ETUC warns that women are paying the highest price for the crisis. On one hand, for the austerity measures, on the other hand, for the lack of political will to address the gender dimension of the crisis. A change of direction is needed. For this reason, the European Trade Union welcomes the [initiative of the European Parliament](#) which placed this matter on the political agenda.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10946>

Restructuring

The European Commission must propose a legislation

Two months on from the historic vote in the European Parliament, in which MEPs used their new right to initiate legislation for the first time in the social field, the ETUC has written to Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso calling for the Commission to respect this democratic decision by presenting legislation without further delay.

Letter sent to President Barroso: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10957>

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10953>

Caps on bonuses

Bank managers must become accountable

The ETUC has welcomed the compromise deal on key legislative proposals establishing rules for banks and bankers' bonuses in the EU Capital Requirements Directive (CRD IV) that was reached in negotiations between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. The ETUC is now calling on the Council to implement the compromise without further delay.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10929>

The ETUC condemns Hungary's anti-democratic veer

Controlled by Viktor Orban's Conservative party, the Hungarian Parliament adopted a new amendment to its Constitution on 11 March which has implications for democracy and threatens the balance of power. The ETUC strongly condemns this amendment which shows that there are no longer any limits to the government's power.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/10992>

Sacrificing the savings of ordinary Cypriots is unfair

The ETUC condemned the Eurogroup's proposal to tax ordinary savers in Cyprus which was included in the bail-out deal. For the ETUC, this is an unfair decision which is bound to have adverse consequences – not least a loss of confidence in Cypriot banks which will freeze credit for the real economy (investments, exports). Such a decision risks destroying economic activity and jobs in the long term.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11028>

European trade union agenda - April 2013

10-13/04: Congress of the General Workers' Union (UGT-Spain)(Madrid)

17/04: Meeting of the Group II "Workers" of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)

20-21/04: Congres of the General Workers' Union (UGT-Portugal) (Lisbon)

23/04: ETUC Executive Committee (Brussels)

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