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Verzonden: donderdag 30 mei 2013 15:34
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Onderwerp: European trade union news n°77

European trade union news n°77 - May 2013

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European trade union news



High Noon for Social Europe



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"High Noon for Social Europe"



ETUC Mid-term Conference, 5-6 June 2013 in Dublin

On June 5th and 6th, trade union leaders from across Europe will gather in Dublin for the ETUC Mid-term Conference "High Noon for Social Europe". This major event will focus on the need for a strong social Europe for workers and citizens. At a time of crisis and social emergency, the European trade union demands a radical change of course and proposes alternatives to restore growth, tackle unemployment and build a fairer Europe.



More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11225>

European Council

Taxation and energy issues: Much more is necessary

The ETUC welcomes the fact that the fight against tax fraud and tax evasion was at the top of the European Summit agenda which took place on May 22. However, automatic exchange of tax information will not be enough to stop the loss of €1 trillion per year. On energy issues, the ETUC regrets that the European leaders have failed to provide a framework to ensure long term competitiveness for Europe.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11218>

Meeting with the College of Commissioners

The social dimension of the EU must be real

On May 2nd, the ETUC met with the College of Commissioners to discuss the roadmap for the social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union under preparation. At the meeting, the ETUC delegation presented [the position on the EU's social dimension recently adopted by its Executive Committee](#). The ETUC insisted on the social emergency, the need to discontinue austerity policies, and the need for a policy for growth and employment. Without such a change of course, support for European integration is likely to evaporate.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11162>

Tour of the European Capitals

In advance of the June European Summit, the ETUC has launched a “Tour of the European Capitals” to promote a social dimension of the European Union which ensures social progress, full employment as well as minimum social standards for all the Member States. The first stop of this tour was Bratislava, where Bernadette Ségal met Robert Fico, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11191>

Labour Day

Keep up the momentum to bring a strong social dimension to the EU

On May 1st, the ETUC celebrated, along with all European workers, Labour Day. The ETUC continues to press heads of state and government for a European Union with a strong social dimension. For the European Trade Union, the fight against unemployment must be a priority of the EU.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11156>

ETUC and AFL-CIO discuss a Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership to benefit workers globally

Meeting in Paris, Richard Trumka, President of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organisations (AFL-CIO) and Bernadette Ségal discussed shared priorities for the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) to advance the interests of working people and fight misguided austerity policies on both sides of the Atlantic.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11234>

Workers' rights to free movement

Positive signal from the Commission

In October 1968, the EU Member States agreed to mutually open up their labour markets to all EU citizens. This freedom was complemented by the right to equal treatment, an essential corollary to the right to free movement. On April 26th, the European Commission launched a proposal for a new enforcement directive on measures facilitating the exercise of the rights conferred on workers in the context of the freedom of movement of workers. The ETUC welcomed this proposal that aims to make it easier for people to exercise their rights in practice, to overcome any obstacles and to help prevent discrimination against workers on the basis of nationality.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11161>

International Day Against Homophobia

All actors must improve efforts to end discrimination

On the occasion of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) published the results of its largest ever survey on the life experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons. For the ETUC, which welcomes this survey, all actors must improve their efforts to end discrimination against LGBT workers.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11195>

Bangladesh

The ETUC welcomes EP Resolution on labour conditions and health and safety standards

The ETUC welcomes the resolution adopted by the European Parliament calling for justice for victims and EU action to prevent a recurrence of the recent fires and building collapses at factories in Bangladesh, and asking the Commission to promote responsible business conduct among EU companies operating abroad and to ensure strict compliance with all legal obligations in the areas of human rights, labour and

the environment.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11220>

European trade union agenda - June 2013

05/06: ETUC Executive Committee (Dublin)

05-06/06: ETUC Mid-term Conference (Dublin)

18-20/06: Congress of the Austrian Trade Union Confederation (ÖGB) (Vienna)

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