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European trade union news n°78 - June 2013

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Trade union news



"High Noon for Social Europe"



Trade Union leaders call for major investment to kick-start recovery and job growth

On 5th and 6th June, trade union leaders from across Europe gathered in Dublin for the ETUC Mid-term Conference "High Noon for Social Europe". At the conference, trade union leaders called for an urgent change of priorities in the form of a real European Recovery Programme with a focus on job creation and a strengthening of the European Social Model.



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

Photos of the conference: [click here](#)

Videos of the conference: [click here](#)

European Council

"Workers want action now, not more words"

Bernadette Ségol addressed the European Council. She underlined that in such a tense social and economic situation it is necessary to act and avoid media hype. The ETUC demands a stimulus package of investment for jobs. For the ETUC, the struggle against the scourge of unemployment, notably that of young people, demands significant investment. The ETUC reminds the European leaders that it is still waiting for the roadmap on the social dimension of the EU, which was announced in Dec 2012. In her speech, the General Secretary stressed the urgency of calling a halt to failed policies and, one year before the European elections, demanded that the Council takes appropriate action against populist movements in Europe.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11351>

Youth Employment

Signature of European Framework of Actions



The European Social Partners, ETUC, BUSINESSEUROPE, UEAPME and CEEP agreed on a Framework of Actions on Youth Employment. This text, resulting from social dialogue negotiation, aims to promote solutions to reduce youth unemployment. The European social partners call on national social partners, public authorities and other stakeholders to act together and achieve concrete progress in favour of youth employment. Bernadette Ségol said: "The ETUC rejects the idea of a sacrificed, lost

generation of young people. With this framework of actions on youth employment, social partners are committing themselves to take urgent action and recommend concrete measures to the other stakeholders.”

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11282>

Tour of European capitals

European leaders must respond to people's expectations

In advance of the European Summit on 27-28 June, the ETUC launched a “Tour of European Capitals” to promote the social dimension of the European Union. In several meetings with European leaders, the ETUC called for a European recovery and investment plan to restore growth and jobs. The ETUC pressed political leaders to deliver on promises made in 2012 and urged them not to surrender to national circumstances, if they want to count on people’s support for the European project.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11184>

Health & safety at work

After months of trade union pressure the European Commission has launched a public consultation

The European Commission recently adopted an evaluation document concerning its former strategy for Health & Safety. It has also launched a public consultation on the internet on the future of this policy. However, the consultation does not say that a Health & Safety at Work Strategy will be adopted. The Commission is content with ambiguous wording concerning a “new European political framework”. *“Finally, we see that the Commission has recognised the need to address health and safety at work, but where is the new strategy? Where is the response to the deterioration of working conditions and intensification of work? The EU must address these crucial questions urgently”,* stated ETUC Confederal Secretary, Judith Kirton-Darling.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11255>

Turkey

The ETUC Executive Committee condemns disproportionate use of force by the police

The Executive Committee of the ETUC has been following the unfolding events in Istanbul, Ankara and other Turkish cities with great concern. European trade unions condemn the disproportionate and unacceptable use of force by the police.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11263>

Solidarity with ERT workers

Information and consultation rights must be strengthened

After the shock decision by the Greek government to shut down the Hellenic Public Radio-television, ERT, the Executive Committee of Greek General Confederation of Labour (GSEE) decided to stage a 24-hour general strike on 13 June. In the meeting with the Greek Prime Minister, Antonis Samaras, on 12 June, Bernadette Ségol expressed her disagreement with the decision and her solidarity with ERT workers. The ETUC has sent a letter to the European institutions asking for an investigation into what went wrong, in particular with regard to EU information and consultation rights of the workers and journalists. In particular, the ETUC asks the Commission to include the public service industries in the information and consultation framework and to strengthen information and consultation procedures and participation rights.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11290> and <http://www.etuc.org/a/11329>

Financial Transactions Tax

Workers want justice, no exemptions

In view of the vote in the European Parliament on the proposal for a Council directive implementing enhanced cooperation for a financial transaction tax (FTT), the ETUC called on Members of the European Parliament to vote in favour of an ambitious, simple and efficient FTT, as a first, but essential step, towards an international FTT.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11306>

Posted workers

The ETUC concerned about the future of social Europe

The ETUC is puzzled about an ambiguous report recently adopted in the Employment and Social Affairs Committee (EMPL) regarding the Enforcement Directive on the posting of workers. On the one hand, the report achieves some "damage control". It tries to ensure that national control measures in the Member States, where the enforcement is the most advanced, will not be jeopardised by internal market principles. On the other hand, the report's lack of ambition means that few improvements will take place in those Member States where exploitation of posted workers is the most striking.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11323>

Deal on 7th Environmental Action Programme welcomed by the ETUC

A deal on the 7th Environmental Action Programme was sealed on Wednesday night between negotiators from the European Parliament, the Commission and the Irish

Presidency of the European Union. The ETUC welcomes this agreement which sets a clear political framework for action on environmental issues in the years to come.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11337>

European trade union agenda - July 2013

02-04/07: [ICTU Congress](#) (Belfast)

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