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European trade union news n°81 - November 2013

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A New Path For Europe



The ETUC launches bold investment plan for a new Europe

The ETUC launched a new plan for creating investment and quality jobs in Europe. The plan, [A New Path For Europe: ETUC plan for investment, Sustainable Growth and Quality Jobs](#), outlines how Europe can lift itself out of crisis by investing in sustainable growth and jobs through a bold recovery strategy based on investing an additional 2% of GDP per year over a 10-year period in a new industrial base and creating quality employment and educational opportunities. The new stimulus plan will create up to 11 million new jobs in Europe and aid sustainable economic and social recovery over the next decade.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11716>
A New Path for Europe: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11715>

Annual growth survey



Current policies offer little hope for Europe's jobless

The European Commission published its [Annual Growth Survey \(AGS\) 2014](#), launching the next cycle of European economic policy coordination. According to the ETUC, while there may be timid signs of economic recovery, for the almost 27 million unemployed and those at risk of poverty across Europe, there is no recovery in sight. [A radical change is needed](#). Europe needs investment not austerity; member states must stop the strategy of an endless race to the bottom based on lower wages and working conditions. The ETUC has proposed a bold plan for a new way forward: [an investment plan to bolster the creation of quality, sustainable jobs in Europe](#).

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11733>

Inter-ministerial summit on youth employment

Stop talking, act now!

On 12 November, the European inter-ministerial summit on youth employment took place, hosted by the French President François Hollande. A delegation of youth representatives led by Patrick Itschert, ETUC Deputy General Secretary, and Thiébaut Weber, President of the ETUC Youth Committee, participated in the discussions to urge action for the implementation of the youth guarantee and the creation of quality jobs.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11736>

ETUC and the European Chemicals Agency work together for safe use of chemicals at work

To coincide with the EU-OSHA Healthy Workplaces Summit, recently held in Bilbao, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), in cooperation with the ETUC, launched on 12 November a new section of its website dedicated to workers and their safety representatives. The new web section explains how REACH, CLP and the Biocidal Products regulations can enhance safety at work, reduce exposure to hazardous chemicals and help prevent illnesses, injuries and accidents caused by chemical substances. It provides examples, practical information, tips and useful links to workers exposed to chemicals: <http://echa.europa.eu/chemicals-in-our-life>.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11729>

For a Just Transition in Europe

Trade unions call on equitable climate deal that protects workers

From 11-22 November countries from all around the world negotiated on climate change under the auspices of the Polish government. The ETUC took the opportunity of this UN conference taking place in Warsaw, to stress the importance of having an European energy and climate policy that puts the Just Transition into action.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11741>

Council of Europe's European Committee of Social Rights strengthens collective rights!

Sweden's Laval legislation is violating the Revised European Social Charter

In a [decision](#) published on 20 November the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) found that Sweden violated the revised European Social Charter in several respects. Supported by the ETUC, two Swedish affiliates LO and TCO filed a complaint against Sweden criticising the 'Laval' legislation, which had been introduced in order to conform to the so-called Laval judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union (Court of Justice) (C-341/05 - Laval un Partneri). Welcoming this outcome, Bernadette Ségal said: *"This decision recognises the rights of trade unions to protect posted workers. It obliges the Swedish Government to bring its legislation and practice into conformity with these requirements. At the same time it indirectly criticises the Court of Justice's jurisprudence for not taking social rights sufficiently into account"*.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11779>

EU Cohesion Policy endorsed in a rush

Deal not enough to meet demands of European Social Fund

The ETUC strongly regrets the [final endorsement](#) on Structural Funds 2014-2020 recently voted by the European Parliament. While ETUC understands that this approval was urgent, in order to start the next programming period on time, at the same time it is deeply concerned by the final decisions made on the European Social Fund (ESF), as well as the macroeconomic conditionalities in cohesion policy. Concerning the ESF, the minimum share of 23.1% of the cohesion envelope that was agreed corresponds to merely €71 billion in the 2014-2020 period. This means a €7 billion reduction in comparison with the current ESF envelope.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11780>

Trade unions oppose privileged rights for Big Business in EU-Canada trade deal

On 18 October, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and Canadian Prime Minister Steven Harper announced the conclusion of the negotiations on a European Union–Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). This “next generation” free trade agreement will include a controversial and unnecessary investor-to-state dispute settlement process (ISDS). In spite of the deal, negotiations on investment protection and ISDS continue. The ETUC strongly opposes the inclusion of ISDS in CETA, and the subsequent creation of a parallel court system which allows multinationals to sue and threaten governments with heavy costs for doing their democratic job of regulating their societies and economies.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11786>

European trade union agenda - December 2013

03/12: ETUC Steering committee

03-04/12: ETUC Executive Committee

06/12: ASZSZ-MSZOSZ-SZEF Unification Congress (Hungary)

13-14/12: LIGA Congress (Hungary)

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