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Trade Union News



Public Procurement



ETUC Welcomes Binding Social Clause

The ETUC welcomes the outcome of today's vote (15 January) on the Directive on Public Procurement in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. The introduction of a mandatory social clause guaranteeing respect for labour law and collective agreements in the workplace is an important improvement to the European rules on public procurement. *"The revised Directive on Public Procurement will allow public authorities to make sustainable choices and make sure that workers' rights are upheld. Public procurement must not contribute to a race to the bottom in terms of pay and working conditions."*, said Veronica Nilsson, ETUC Confederal Secretary.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11952>

Industry

Industrial Renaissance Neglects Industrial Workers

In its [Communication](#) "For a European Industrial Renaissance," published on 22 January, the European Commission reiterates its commitment to foster industrial production so that it contributes 20% to Europe's GDP by 2020. However, for the ETUC and IndustriAll Europe it lacks a convincing financing plan, although the Commission has rightly identified industrial high-value added sectors as economic drivers of the future. Unfortunately, the Commission fails to put forward a proposal on how this potential for growth could be translated into job creation and states that it expects EU unemployment to remain at 11%, an all-time high, for at least two more years. [An adequately funded European industrial policy is a necessary condition for Europe to end the era of austerity and social deterioration.](#)

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11959>

Energy Efficiency

Lack of Ambition is Particularly Worrying

On 22 January 2014, the European Commission launched the 2030 Framework for EU Climate Change and Energy Policies - a new package which sets new climate and energy objectives for 2030. For the ETUC, it is positive that greenhouse gas emission reductions and renewable energy targets are binding, giving a longer term perspective to economic and social stakeholders. However, in relation to the ambition of the 2050 Roadmap, short-term rather than long-term vision prevails.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11961>

Unemployment Figures Prove Europe Needs New Path

New figures show that Europe still faces a massive employment crisis, with an estimated 26,533 million citizens out of work, an increase from the previous year. Unemployment now stands at 12.1% in the euro area. Despite these statistics, some European leaders continue to push for business as usual policies. *"The latest unemployment figures show that Europe needs a new path to find its way out of the crisis,"* said Bernadette Ségol. *"In spite of the optimism of the Commission, countries like Greece continue to find themselves devastated by harsh austerity policies leading to mass unemployment and social corrosion. Instead of sticking with failed policies, European leaders need to fight for a new direction, a plan based on investments in sustainable growth and quality jobs."*

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11918>

ETUC Report Denounces the Takeover by the Troika

At a hearing of the European Parliament, the ETUC presented the results of its own investigations into the activities of the Troika in Cyprus, Greece, Ireland and Portugal. The [report](#) shows that the countries where the Troika implemented its policies have paid a high economic and social price. The ETUC demands substantial amendments to the existing programmes and mechanisms to ensure that the Troika's policy of austerity and deregulation cannot be repeated in the future.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11966>

ETUC Condemns Persecution of Trade Union and Civil Society Activists in Turkey

The ETUC strongly condemns the continued harassment of trade unionists and other civil society activists in Turkey following the hearings of over 500 activists who took part in a demonstration over educational reforms in March 2012. The ETUC insists on the release 'without charges' of the accused. But above all, the ETUC calls on the Turkish government to stop trade union and human rights violations in the country.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11949>



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