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European trade union news n°84 - February 2014

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European trade union news



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Trade Union News



ETUC welcomes EU Parliament report denouncing the dire social consequences caused by the Troika policies



The ETUC congratulated the European Parliament's Employment and Social Affairs Committee following the adoption of its report on the employment and social consequences resulting from the Troika's operations in Cyprus, Greece, Ireland and Portugal. The report highlights the devastating effects the Troika's policies are having on social cohesion. Its findings echo the experience of ETUC's members in the affected countries which have seen the Troika's actions lead to massive unemployment, a collapse in social spending and social protection systems, increased poverty and inequalities, and an exodus of people, particularly the young, emigrating out of sheer despair.

[More information](#)

Ukraine

Stop the violence - a real dialogue is necessary

European trade unions strongly condemned the further escalation of violence resulting in the dramatic events on the streets of the Ukrainian capital. Bernadette Ségal, General Secretary of the ETUC and of the Pan-European Regional Council (PERC) said: *“The authorities must exercise maximum restraint and all political forces in the country must act responsibly. They need to show political courage and skill and engage in a creative dialogue to find a way out of the crisis that meets the challenge of these demanding times. The Ukrainian people deserve respect for their lives, their rights and a future based on their free choice.”*

In a [joint letter](#), Bernadette Ségal and Sharan Burrow, ITUC General Secretary, expressed their solidarity with Ukrainian workers and trade unions.

[More information](#)

Swiss referendum outcome brings into question the whole relationship between the EU and Switzerland

By a small majority Swiss voters decided to put an end to the freedom of movement of workers between Switzerland and the European Union. The ETUC respects the democratic decision of Swiss citizens. At the same time it underlines that this decision has wide ranging consequences and brings into question the whole relationship between the EU and Switzerland.

[More information](#)

Stop the Intra Corporate Transfer Directive

Posting of workers from third-countries is unacceptable without full equal treatment of migrants

The Council is forcing the European Parliament to accept a Directive on intra-corporate transfers from third-countries without a full equal treatment provision in favour of third country nationals working in a Member State. This will result in workers being employed in a Member State under working conditions and labour protections which are set in the legislation of the origin countries! « The European Labour market will become a jungle », the ETUC warns.

[More information](#)

The ETUC condemns Spanish government proposal to dismantle the right to abortion

On December 2013, the Spanish Council of Ministers approved a draft bill aiming at reforming the current law on sexual and reproductive health and rights. If approved, this would seriously undermine the rights of women to freely decide on their pregnancy and negatively impact Spanish obligations towards gender equality, as enshrined in the EU Treaties. The ETUC opposes strenuously the proposals that threaten EU values and human rights.

[More information](#)

Voters will sanction secret trade giveaways

The ETUC warned European decision makers that international trade negotiations must be open, promote European social, environmental and technical standards, and prioritise decent jobs. [Addressing the European Parliament international trade committee](#), Bernadette Ségal warned that voters in the forthcoming European elections would be scrutinising EU trade arrangements, in particular the current negotiations with the United States, and "would not overlook" any deals that did not put European jobs and standards first.

[More information](#)

The ETUC welcomes Parliament's inclusion of social and environmental standards and stakeholder involvement in EU trade defence

The ETUC welcomes the decision of the European Parliament to incorporate into their consideration of anti-dumping cases references to the observance of international labour and environmental standards set down in Conventions of the International Labour Organisation and in Multilateral Environmental Agreements, as well as the possibility for trade unions and other stakeholders to submit complaints.

[More information](#)

7th EU-Brazil summit revives negotiations with Mercosur

One of the items broached at the seventh EU-Brazil summit, held on 24 February 2014, in Brussels, and attended by President Dilma Rousseff, concerned the revival of the negotiations for an association agreement by and between the EU and Mercosur. The ETUC and the Coordinating Committee of Southern Cone Trade Unions (CCSCS) demand that the negotiations lead to an agreement not simply on free trade, but with social content as well.

[More information](#)

"Nothing about us, without us"

Bernadette Ségal meets the Serbian Government

Bernadette Ségal, on the joint invitation of the two Serbian affiliates CATUS and NEZAVISNOST, held talks in Belgrade on 26 February with Prime Minister Ivica Dacic, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and the head of the EU- Serbia negotiation team, Tanja Miscevic. Ségal stressed that the EU integration process and the start of the accession negotiations require the full inclusion of trade unions as an important component of civil society. "Social Dialogue", she said, "is a fundamental EU value".

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