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Trade Union News



European Trade Union Summit



Falling wages casts doubt on recovery warn trade unions

Austerity is not working, and a new path for Europe is urgently needed, European trade union leaders warned at an unprecedented union summit in Brussels. Europe needs a new path. It needs investment to create jobs. “The European Council will discuss economic, industrial and energy policy. These policies could create growth. But they will not - because the industrial policy does not have the instruments to generate jobs, the energy policies lack ambition and the economic policies are based on austerity and deregulation: they are the wrong economic policies” Bernadette Ségo told the trade union summit.

[More information](#)
[Photos of the European Trade Union Summit](#)

European young people don't want to be a lost generation



A delegation of young European trade unionists met the President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso to ask for a change in current austerity policies. 7.5 million young people are neither in employment nor in education or training. The risk of a lost generation is real and young trade unionists are looking to European leaders to provide solutions. This was also one of the key points that ETUC raised at the [Tripartite Social Summit](#), organised in Brussels just ahead the European Council.

[More information](#)

Five-Point Plan for Ukraine

The ETUC Executive Committee endorsed a [five-point plan](#) for immediate measures to secure a peaceful and acceptable way out of the crisis in Ukraine. *“Urgent action is needed to de-escalate the crisis in Ukraine and give hope for a better future to workers and their families who are the first victims of social, economic and political destabilisation. The EU must play a full and generous role in bringing about a peaceful resolution that respects constitutional rights and international obligations”* said Bernadette Ségal

[More information](#)

Deflation risks undermining recovery

European economic recovery remains fragile and could be derailed by rising debt burdens, the ETUC warned the European Commission, ECB, Finance Ministers and European employer organisations, on the occasion of European Macro Economic Dialogue meeting. The ETUC calls for a change of course. Austerity and deregulation of wages and collective bargaining systems need to stop. What Europe needs instead is a [European investment initiative](#), and a restoration of the wage fixing machinery so that wages can act as a force against deflation.

[More information](#)

Future Europe needs true gender equality

Europe needs a revamped gender equality agenda and concrete actions to address persistent imbalances between men and women in society. Ahead of the European elections in May 2014, the ETUC uses the occasion of International Women's Day (IWD) on 8 March to encourage women to vote and ensure that their voices are heard. *"The ETUC wants a European Parliament that will defend workers' rights and continue to fight for gender equality and fairer societies. Use your vote to elect future MEPs that will defend these priorities"* urged Claudia Menne ETUC Confederal Secretary.

[More information](#)

Provisional deal on posting of workers will not put an end to social dumping

Negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council on the Enforcement Directive have led to a very disappointing outcome. The European Parliament now has before it a draft legislation which will, if adopted, hardly advance the protection of posted workers and is nowhere near enough to stop on-going social dumping. *"This is a missed opportunity to secure the protection of posted workers. The only solution is a revision of the Posting of Workers Directive together with the introduction of a Social Progress Protocol to make sure that fundamental social rights cannot be subordinated to economic freedoms."* said Veronica Nilsson, ETUC Confederal Secretary.

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Facebook post of the month

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A [#NewPath4Europe](#) is what we want! 



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