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European trade union news n°86 - April 2014

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Trade Union News



#NewPathDemo



50,000 workers from all over Europe gathered in Brussels to demonstrate against austerity and for investment, quality jobs, equality

On April the 4th, [50,000 workers from 21 European countries took to the streets of Brussels](#) to express their dissatisfaction with the economic situation and the economic policies being pursued. The crisis of unemployment and poverty has yet to be tackled and trade unions are fighting for new policies to get Europe



back to work. *“Austerity is not working. Austerity has caused a mounting social and economic crisis: over 26 million Europeans are jobless, 10 million more than in 2008. This is why we demonstrate and demand a New Path for Europe, based on investments, quality jobs and equality”* said [Bernadette Ségol at the Euro-demonstration](#).

Barroso and MEPs fail to sort out the rights of "Posted" workers

Commenting on the outcome of the vote on the Enforcement of the Posted Workers Directive – in which MEPs rejected all [amendments designed to strengthen enforcement](#) - Bernadette Ségol said *“Mr Barroso has failed to do what he promised which is to resolve the shortcomings in interpretation and implementation of the Posted Workers Directive. It is deeply frustrating and disappointing. A strengthening of the Directive itself is now more urgent than ever”*.

[More information](#)

‘Intra-Corporate Transfer’ Directive

The ETUC is disappointed with the outcome of the vote in the European Parliament on the Intra-Corporate Transfer (ICT) Directive. While the ICT Directive proposes minimum equal pay and the same working hours and health and safety conditions as locally employed workers, [it does not prevent other important differences in costs and conditions](#). In particular, transferred workers would not be guaranteed the full working conditions and benefits of local workers agreed through national collective agreements and laws.

Spring Alliance calls on Europe’s leaders to put people and planet first



The [Spring Alliance](#) - bringing together European trade unions and environmental, social and development organisations launched its **spring alliance** manifesto “A better Europe now” which aims to present a positive vision of Europe that puts people and planet first. Through the manifesto, the Spring Alliance calls for a radical departure by the next European Commission and European Parliament from current policies which have not succeeded in solving the crisis and have led to citizens increasingly losing their trust in their political leaders and in the European project.

[More information](#)

Company directive = tax and labour rules avoidance charter

The European Commission’s draft Directive on a ‘single member limited liability company’ is a charter for avoiding tax and national labour rules warns the ETUC. While the European Commission presents the Directive as a means of helping small business to trade across the single market, the ETUC points out that there is nothing

to stop large companies setting up single member subsidiaries to avoid tax and labour regulations.

[More information](#)

ETUC Resolutions

The Executive Committee of the ETUC adopted five resolutions on [undeclared work](#), improving quality of [apprenticeship and work-based learning](#), proposal for an [optional legal framework for transnational negotiations in multinational companies](#), EU economic policy coordination [European Semester 2014](#), mid-term evaluation of the [Europe 2020 strategy](#) as well as a declaration on [industrial policy, energy and the fight against climate change](#).

Tweet of the month



"50,000 workers have marched today #NewPath4europe #NewPathDemo @etuc_ces"

Facebook post of the month



"Min 25: Bernadette Ségol took part in a discussion on [BBC Radio 4](#) on 21 April on Europe's future quality of life – should Europe try and adapt towards a more US/Asian model or preserve its proud tradition of liberal labour laws and workers' rights? "



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