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Verzonden: vrijdag 27 juni 2014 9:38
Aan: Nieuwsarchief
Onderwerp: European trade union news n°88

European trade union news n°88 - June 2014

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A blue graphic with the text 'WHO? WILL LEAD EUROPE?' in large white letters. To the right of the text is a red circular icon with a white arrow pointing right and the text 'A NEW PATH FOR EUROPE' and 'Trade Union News'. Below the text is a photograph of a long queue of people standing outside a building with a sign that says 'OFICINA DE EMPLEO'. Below the graphic, the text '26 million unemployed: Austerity isn't working' and 'New EU leaders must invest in growth & jobs' is written in white. At the bottom of the graphic, the text 'It's a message to EU leaders' is written in red and underlined.

Trade Union News



European Summit

Europe's 26 million unemployed must be EU priority





The ETUC called on EU leaders meeting in Brussels to back proposals by French President François Hollande for an investment plan equal to 2% of EU GDP, and by Italian Premier Matteo Renzi to lift austerity measures and invest in growth and jobs. *“New initiatives are needed to drive recovery. EU leaders need to turn words of concern about unemployment into deeds and put the proposals of Hollande and Renzi into action”*

said Bernadette Ségol.

[More information](#)

REFIT

The focus on deregulation remains

On June the 18th, the European Commission published a REFIT implementation report. Veronica Nilsson, ETUC Confederal Secretary, said: *“The Commission is boasting that they are making EU law lighter, simpler and less costly, but for whom? Pregnant workers that will see the proposal for a maternity protection directive withdrawn? Or hairdressers that are denied occupational safety and health protection? Why does not the Commission look at the cost to society of not having adequate health and safety legislation ?”*



[More information](#)

Multinationals must pay their fair share

The European Commission announced investigations on deals made by Apple, Starbucks and Fiat with national tax authorities. Bernadette Ségol said *“A clamp down on tax avoidance by multinational companies is long overdue. It is immoral of multinationals to avoid tax at a time when citizens are paying the price for the crisis. As Commissioner Almunia rightly said, multinationals must pay their fair share.”*

[More information](#)

Health and Safety at Work

EU Commission’s Framework is too late, too weak

Commenting on the European Commission’s ‘Framework on Health and Safety at Work’ issued on June the 6th, Józef Niemiec, ETUC Deputy General Secretary said *“The ETUC has been waiting for years for this Health and Safety Strategy, and we are disappointed it is weak and insubstantial. It contains no concrete proposal for action, and no specific improvements to health and safety.”*

[More information](#)



Are you in favour of an EU-US trade deal?

[Joint interview with Bernadette Ségol & Richard Trumka \(AFL-CIO\)](#)

[The transatlantic trade deal must work for the people, or it won't work at all](#)

[ETUC letter to Commissioner De Gucht](#)

The cost of the crisis in Europe has been passed on to ordinary people says ILO report

The ILO, the UN agency, in its World Social Protection Report 2014/15 has found that "poverty and social exclusion is now affecting 123 million people in the European Union, 24 per cent of the population". Bernadette Ségol said "A UN agency is showing that the cost of the crisis in Europe has been passed on to ordinary people. The mistakes of the bankers and financial sector have been paid for by ordinary men, women and children, and yet even yesterday Commissioners were expressing their satisfaction with the economic policies they have been pursuing."

[More information](#)



[European Social Dialogue: ETUC Resource Centre](#)

Europe at a crossroads. Which way to quality jobs and prosperity?

The ETUC and the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) are organising the conference "Europe at a



ETUI-ETUC Conference
24-26 September 2014
Hotel Thon Europe
1040 Brussels, Belgium

Europe
at a crossroads

Which way to
quality jobs
and prosperity?

crossroads. Which way to quality jobs and prosperity?" to be held on 24-26 September in Brussels. This important gathering will bring together representatives of trade unions, research bodies, academia, civil society and EU institutions to debate action and research on the growing problem represented by unemployment and precarious job creation in Europe. Alongside the central issue of how to get Europe back to work, the conference will examine a range of employment-related topics including green jobs, precarious work, wages and growth, health and safety, training, and an ageing workforce.

[More information](#)



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