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Onderwerp: ETUC urges EU Parliament to improve maternity protection

ETUC URGES EU PARLIAMENT TO IMPROVE MATERNITY PROTECTION

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Next week the European Parliament (EP) will vote on the revision of the European Directive on maternity protection. This is an important opportunity to improve the health and safety framework of maternity leave and to promote equal opportunities in the labour market. The revision of Maternity Directive 92/85 is a long standing demand of the European trade union movement and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) urges the European Parliament to address the shortcomings of this instrument by endorsing the PLUMB report as adopted by the Employment Committee of the EP.

We want full payment of maternity leave for a period of at least 18 weeks, enhanced provisions on health and safety notably in terms of prevention and risk assessment, inclusion of domestic workers in the scope of the new directive and stronger provisions against dismissal of women during and after returning from maternity leave.

"The crisis makes it even more important to ensure that pregnant women and women who have recently given birth are adequately protected," says John Monks, ETUC Secretary General, "The cost of extending maternity leave from 14 to 18 weeks is very small in comparison to what Member States have spent on bailing out the banks, but the benefits to working women and their families are great."

Link to the ETUC position: <http://www.etuc.org/a/5858>

The ETUC exists to speak with a single voice, on behalf of the common interests of workers, at European level. Founded in 1973, it now represents 82 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 12 industry-based federations.

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