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Onderwerp: ETUC welcomes Commission moves towards Social Europe

ETUC WELCOMES COMMISSION MOVES TOWARDS SOCIAL EUROPE

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European Trade Union Confederation [ETUC]
Confédération européenne des syndicats [CES]

Today, the EU Commissioner for Internal Market Michel Barnier, sets out his action plan with 12 proposals on the internal market 2012. The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) welcomes his document, as the European Commission acknowledges that there are problems with the economic freedoms taking precedence over fundamental social rights.

In the past, such problems have existed and former Commissioner Mario Monti introduced a Monti-I-regulation in the internal market for goods to ensure that fundamental social rights are fully respected. Legislation of this kind is still missing for certain other aspects of the internal market, and Mario Monti in his recent report proposed to fill the gap. The Commission has now followed this advice and aims to come forward with a Monti-II-regulation to make all aspects of the single market respect fundamental rights. The Commission will propose legislation aimed at clarifying the exercise of freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services alongside fundamental social rights, including the right to take collective action. This is a welcome step in the right direction. Less positively, the Commission does not propose a revision of the Posting of Workers Directive as asked for by the ETUC, but only legislation to improve its implementation.

John Monks, ETUC General Secretary, said: "What Europeans hear currently from Brussels, is all about austerity governance and economic misery. We are pleased to see that the Commission wants to put life in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and to make the single market respect social rights. The internal market should be like a three legged stool: economic, financial and social. If you cut off the social leg, the stool will topple. By adding the third leg, the internal market can move on to solid ground again and help to foster growth and employment in Europe."

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 83 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 12 industry-based federations.

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