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**Onderwerp:** ETUC holds its 12th Congress in Athens on 16-19 May 2011

**The European Trade Union  
Confederation holds its  
12th Congress in Athens on 16-19  
May 2011**



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

14 April 2011

***The 12th Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) will take place in Athens on the 16-19 May 2011. The event is a crucial step in the development of the European trade union movements strategy for more employment and quality jobs, equality and social justice, in the context of a deep financial, economic and social crisis which is far from over .***

The ETUC rejects the policy of austerity adopted by European governments and endorsed by the European Commission because, once again it is hitting European workers, through a widescale reduction of wages, public services and workers' rights.

Moreover European economic governance, both in theory and as it is being put into practice by the European Commission, is making the living and working conditions of workers worse by directly attacking wages and the autonomy of collective bargaining.

This is one of the reasons that European trade unions have taken to the streets on several occasions in recent months.

. Our most recent Euro-demonstration took place in Budapest the 9<sup>th</sup> of April:  
<http://www.etuc.org/a/8313>

Congress will bring together leaders of trade unions from all European countries to elaborate a strategy and action plan to address these and other urgent issues being faced. Congress will also elect the new ETUC General Secretary who will lead the confederation for the next four years.

The event has a dedicated internet site: <http://www.etuc.org/congress2011>

which provides details of the agenda, round table debates, documents and practical information (venue, facilities etc)

The website will also provide audiovisual coverage of the congress with a photo gallery, videoclips and a web-TV with live broadcasts from congress.

A press conference has been scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> of May in Athens to brief journalists about the congress and the ETUC's priorities. Click on this link for an invitation: <http://www.etuc.org/a/8344>

***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.***

***The ETUC is also on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#). If you would like to subscribe to the [ETUC newsletter](#), please [click here](#).***

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