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

Industrial Policy: ETUC calls for EU action on restructuring and innovation policies

06/08/2012

Responding to the EU consultation on industrial policy, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) has reiterated its call for EU action on the anticipation of change and restructuring, as well as an industrial agenda to promote new industries, sustainable products and services to ensure the jobs of tomorrow.

“A key element of any industrial policy is having a skilled and well trained workforce to produce quality goods and services. However, EU labour market and employment strategy is focused on labour market reforms leading to greater flexibility and increased precariousness, which directly undermines the focus on up/re-skilling the workforce”, states the ETUC response.

The ETUC has addressed where industries should be heading in-line with energy and resource efficiency, as well as how this industrial policy agenda should be financed.

“Sustainable and progressive macroeconomic policies are the bedrock for public services and private companies operating in Europe alike. The ETUC reiterates our long-standing message that austerity does not and will not work: the policy is self-defeating and has failed. The view that rapid fiscal consolidation could restore confidence and push savings rates down has proven to be a myth again... Instead of member states competing on jobs, Europe needs to invest itself out of the crisis: structural investments rather than structural reforms”, reiterates the ETUC.

“Workers in Europe want to see a real industrial policy emerging, we need to move beyond the rhetoric that the real economy must be supported to concrete action to push innovation, ensure access to finance and credit, and develop a social dimension capable of tackling skills gaps and promoting quality jobs”, said Judith Kirton-Darling ETUC Confederal Secretary.

See the response here: http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/ETUC_IP_response_2012.pdf and http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/ETUC_IP_short_response_2012.pdf (Short version)

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 85 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 10 industry-based federations.

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