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

ETUC condemns the “à la carte” European Union mooted by Prime Minister Cameron

23 January 2013

Prime Minister David Cameron has vowed to renegotiate Britain's future in the EU by 2017, in a speech in London this morning. The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) condemns the orientation taken by the British Prime Minister. EU is not only a free trade zone

Said Bernadette Ségal, ETUC General Secretary: “We are very concerned that Mr Cameron wants to retain the benefits of the single market, while bringing into question EU competence to deal with subjects of vital importance to European citizens and workers including “the environment, social affairs and crime”. Workers rights are an integral part of the single market, because we need a Europe for citizens, not just for business. We must avoid the downward spiral of competition based on lowering basic standards at work that he is clearly advocating”.

The ETUC will be pressing all EU Governments to resist such blackmail during the so-called British renegotiation.

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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For more information :

Patricia Grillo.
ETUC Head of Press and Communications
+ 32 (0)2 224 04 30
+ 32 (0)477 7 7 0 1 64
E-mail : Pgrillo@etuc.org

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