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**Meeting with President Hollande:
Social Europe must be the priority of the next European Council**

19 June 2013

The “Tour of European Capitals” by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) to promote the social dimension of the European Union (EU) is entering an important phase. Bernadette Ségol, ETUC General Secretary, accompanied by the leaders of all the affiliated French trade unions - CGT, CFDT, FO, CFTC and UNSA - will meet François Hollande, President of the French Republic, today in Paris. For the ETUC, Social Europe must be the priority of the next European Summit on 27-28 June.

The June European Summit is of paramount importance for the future of the European project. In this respect, the ETUC has embarked on a series of meetings with European decision-makers to insist on the urgent need for a European recovery and investment plan geared to job creation and the fight against unemployment, particularly among young people.

The meeting with François Hollande, President of the French Republic, is crucial. France can play a key role in bringing about a change in current policies, as the ETUC advocates.

Before the meeting with the President of the French Republic, Bernadette Ségol declared: *“Faced with an unemployment rate that is reaching intolerable levels, particularly for younger people, faced with a real social emergency, we are calling for a change of policy at European level. The European Summit at the end of June will be a*

test: in the absence of concrete measures in favour of growth and employment, without a real European recovery plan investing to 1 to 2% of GDP, we will never recover from the current crisis, and democratic support for the European project will again be put at risk. Scarcely a year before the next European elections, and in the face of a growing anti-EU feeling, it is the moment of truth for the European Union and Social Europe.”

- ETUC's position on the social dimension of the European Union:

<http://www.etuc.org/a/11136>

- Tour of the EU capitals “Towards a social dimension for the European Union:”

<http://www.etuc.org/a/11184>

The European Trade Union Confederation (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. The ETUC is also on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#).

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