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### EU Summit- Empty words on social Europe – strong words to support deregulation

25/10/2013

**A “broader understanding” of social imbalances and injustices is what the EU council understands as being the social dimension of the EMU. Miles away from social Europe as the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) understands it. Council conclusions offer no perspective to re-direct economic policies towards more equality, less poverty, towards long-term investment for sustainable growth and good jobs.**

By rapidly implementing the REFIT programme, the Council is rubber stamping Barroso's intention to ditch the social partners' agreement on the protection of occupational health and safety in the hairdressing sector. Instead of attacking workers' rights, the Commission should focus its efforts on ensuring that EU legislation is correctly applied throughout Europe and identify regulatory gaps.

Bernadette Ségol, ETUC General Secretary said: “*They are trying to convince us that black is white ; they won't deceive us. The social dimension is reduced to a scoreboard, to statistical information; no action for sustainable growth and decent jobs; no initiative for more social justice; Yet we can expect action for the EU deregulatory agenda. Today workers feel angry and deeply disappointed.*”

***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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