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**Verzonden:** woensdag 12 februari 2014 11:11  
**Aan:** Nieuwsarchief  
**Onderwerp:** Voters will sanction secret trade giveaways

ETUC Press release

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### **European Trade Union: voters will sanction secret trade giveaways**

12/02/2014

***The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) today warned European decision makers that international trade negotiations must be open, promote European social, environmental and technical standards, and prioritise decent jobs.***

Addressing the European Parliament international trade committee ETUC General Secretary, Bernadette Ségal, warned that voters in the forthcoming European elections would be scrutinising EU trade arrangements, in particular the current negotiations with the United States, and "would not overlook" any deals that did not put European jobs and standards first.

While welcoming the decision of the Commission to consult about proposals that could enable multinational companies to sue governments for decisions taken in the public interest that may affect their profits, she insisted that a negative verdict by the public should be acted upon. She also called for other sensitive issues to be open to consultation and for the EU's negotiating objectives to be made public.

Rejecting protectionism from the extremes of the political spectrum as being "economically counter-productive and verging on xenophobia" she stressed that Europe could compete with the best on the world stage while maintaining its standards, and insisted that trade

partners should observe internationally-accepted labour and environmental standards or incur restrictive measures.

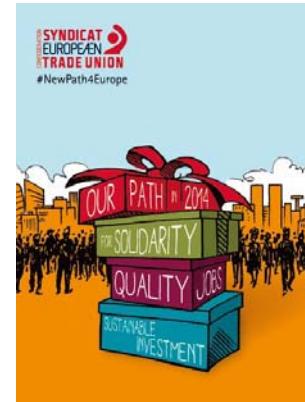
Ms Segol's speech is here: <http://www.etuc.org/speeches/committee-international-trade-eu-trade-policy>

***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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