

**Van:** Info ETUI <[info@etui.org](mailto:info@etui.org)>  
**Verzonden:** vrijdag 31 mei 2013 15:39  
**Aan:** Veerle Solia  
**Onderwerp:** Collective Bargaining newsletter May 2013

*Should you not be able to view this newsletter correctly, then please [click here](#)*  
*Collective bargaining newsletter main page [click here](#)*  
*To subscribe/unsubscribe to the collective bargaining newsletter: [Mariya Nikolova](#)*

## collective bargaining

Issue 5/2013 | May

This newsletter presents up-to-date information on collective bargaining developments across Europe since February 2008. It aims to facilitate information exchange between trade unions and to support the work of the ETUC's collective bargaining committee.



AMSTERDAM INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED LABOUR STUDIES  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM



**etui.**

## contents

### **European sources**

Collective bargaining newsletter database now online

Youth unemployment on the agenda

ECJ rules fixed term workers directive does not apply to agency workers

Collective bargaining and youth

Older workers on the labour market

### **Austria**

Social plan negotiated at Mondi plant

Employment in industries rather stable, environmental jobs increase

### **Belgium**

Luggage-handlers strike ended

Pay and job satisfaction

### **Bulgaria**

Ambulance workers plan protest over personnel safety

Data on employment and wages

### **Croatia**

Croatia airlines pilots deal and cabin crew strike

Transport strike called off as HZ promises to intensify social dialogue

### **Cyprus**

Port workers warning strike

### **Czech Republic**

Crisis 'a hot bed for the grey economy'

---

**Denmark**

Blurry picture of workplace stress  
New unemployment benefit scheme  
Matching skills to jobs

---

**Estonia**

Not ready for trade unions?

---

**Finland**

Vantaa bus drivers on strike over shifts  
Sharp criticism of EU intervention in collective bargaining

---

**France**

Electricity strike in June  
CGT joins other unions to end Aulnay strike  
Talks on pension reform started  
Job cuts announced

---

**Germany**

Further engineering strike averted – Pay deal at Volkswagen  
Amazon workers stage second strike  
Film workers get collective agreement  
Undercover at Daimler  
Increase of working poor  
Ground workers have an agreement  
Foreign influx small part of labour shortage solutions

---

**Greece**

Workers' control at VIOME  
Air traffic controllers' solidarity strike  
Teachers threatened with arrest cancel strike

---

**Hungary**

State-led trade union proposed  
Trade union alliance in the making

---

**Iceland**

Unemployment rate decreases

---

**Ireland**

Record settlement for ship crew  
Breakthrough in Croke Park II negotiations  
Almost complete bus strike brings results  
Court rules agreements unconstitutional

---

**Italy**

EasyJet and Lufthansa strike  
Protesters gather in Rome to demand jobs  
Austerity doesn't work

---

**Latvia**

Social partners in food and drink portrayed

---

**Lithuania**

Trade unions and employer associations in the food and drink sector

---

**Luxembourg**

Unions propose a loan to Cargolux  
Pay rise after 5 years of negotiations  
Employers against planned labour reform

---

**Malta**

Work rosters 'inhumane'

---

**Netherlands**

Making migration work  
Second cut for civil service pensioners?

---

**Norway**

Deals herald end of two-month period of industrial dispute  
Report on early retirement  
Government halts electricity strike as it widens

---

**Poland**

No time for strike according to deputy PM  
Free-fall for trade union membership

---

**Portugal**

Change the policy that creates a nightmare  
Teachers to strike on exams days  
New round of job cuts and pension age raised

---

**Romania**

Post offices closed  
Layoffs before privatisation

---

**Serbia**

Situation of workers never been worse

---

**Slovakia**

EU says old-age benefits are transferable

---

**Slovenia**

Agreement on public sector wage cuts

---

**Spain**

Thirty-seven TV channels off air as Prisa TV workers strike  
Pilot project for skilled migrants  
Protest against education reform

---

**Sweden**

Tips for a better salary  
Job guarantees for young people

---

**Switzerland**

Transparency in pay demanded

---

**Turkey**

Airline strike in a grim atmosphere  
Collective bargaining in a cul-de-sac

---

## **United Kingdom**

Fifth post office strike since Easter  
Banks cut further jobs  
Youth perspectives are negative  
Yes vote for tube strike

---

## **European sources**

### **Collective bargaining newsletter database now online**

*May 30, 2013*

The AIAS/ETUI-team that is responsible for the production of the monthly Collective Bargaining Newsletter has created an archive that functions as a database. The database contains all Collective Bargaining Newsletters published since February 2008 and can be searched using five main functions: search by key words, by countries, and by date, combined search and selection within search results. The search outcome is a chronological list of items starting with the most recent ones. Selections can be printed.

English: <http://www.cbnarchive.eu/>

### **Youth unemployment on the agenda**

*May 29, 2013*

Pointing at joint initiatives with Portugal and Spain the Journal Der Spiegel writes rather cynically that it seemed in recent days as though the entire German cabinet had discovered youth unemployment as its new pet issue. This qualification applies also to other European leaders. However, economists say that the youngest (15-24 age group) aren't the biggest losers of the crisis, and that other groups desperately need more help. 'Age is the wrong criterium for evaluating who is worthy of assistance,' says Carlos Martin Urriza, head economist at Spain's trade union confederation CCOO. Those over 30 who have completed only the equivalent of a middle-school education are more likely to be unemployed, and for longer periods of time, than highly qualified workers under 30. But to train those over 30 is an expensive and long-term measure – politicians lack the endurance for that.

English: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/students-left-out-youth-unemployment ...>

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2013/05/28/eu-leaders-sound-alarm ...>

### **ECJ rules fixed term workers directive does not apply to agency workers**

*May 17, 2013*

In the case Della Rocca v Poste Italiane SpA, the European Court of Justice ruled that temporary agency workers are not protected by the Fixed Term Work Directive. Della Rocca, an agency worker who was placed at the Italian Postal Service, took his employer to court claiming that the series of fixed term contracts he had received entitled him to an open ended contract. The ECJ rules that agency workers do not fall within the scope of the directive and neither the agency, nor the end-user is bound by it.

English: <http://www.staffingindustry.com/eng/Research-Publications/Daily-News/Europe ...>

### **Collective bargaining and youth**

*May 17, 2013*

The Global Union Research Network (GURN) has distributed the ILO-report *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2013*. The report acknowledges the key role that social partners can play, for instance in apprenticeship systems characterised by close collaboration between public policy, training providers, enterprises and social partners. According to the report the enforcement of labour laws and collective agreements should be strengthened, including through stronger and more effective sanctioning mechanisms, as means to protect young workers and facilitate their transitions into stable and decent employment. The development of a coherent wage policy framework that takes account of the observance of minimum wages set by law or by collective agreement can give many young people the opportunity to overcome poverty and low paid work.

English: <http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public ...>

### **Older workers on the labour market**

May 1, 2013

Eurofound has published a report that focuses on the role of governments and social partners in keeping older workers active on the labour market. Collective bargaining can play a role through provisions in national and sectoral collective agreements that offer the possibility for part-time work beyond retirement age or partial retirement arrangements at company level. Most measures that reduce the total number of hours worked by older workers benefit individuals who might not otherwise be able to stay working. In some cases national policies and social partner initiatives have focused on promoting 'work ability' – a concept that combines the ability to continue working because of improved health and enhanced employability through on-going skills development.

English: <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/pubdocs/2013/231/en ...>

---

## Austria

### **Social plan negotiated at Mondi plant**

May 29, 2013

After the announcement of 120 planned redundancies Mondi Neusiedler GmbH, a paper and packaging plant that currently employs almost 700 people in the district of Amstetten (Lower Austria), negotiations for a social plan will start soon. The negotiations with the works councillors will take several weeks. Further job reductions are also expected in subsidiaries in the Slovak Republic and Russia.

English: <http://austriantimes.at/news/Business/2013-05-29 ...>

### **Employment in industries rather stable, environmental jobs increase**

May 2, 2013

According to calculations by Statistics Austria, the 61 605 enterprises in the entire industry and construction sector turned over a total of €18.9 billion (+3.8%) in January 2013, coupled with slightly decreasing employment (853 281 persons or -0.4%). The construction companies achieved a production sold of €1.9 billion in that reporting period; this corresponds to an increase of 1.0% compared to the previous year. Turnover and employment in the environmental goods and services sector show a further growth of the environment industry in the year 2011. The two environmental branches 'wastewater management' and 'heat/energy saving and management' had the most marked influence on the development of the environment industry in 2011.

English: [http://www.statistik.at/web\\_en/dynamic/press/070776](http://www.statistik.at/web_en/dynamic/press/070776)

[http://www.statistik.at/web\\_en/press/070836](http://www.statistik.at/web_en/press/070836)

---

## Belgium

### **Luggage-handlers strike ended**

May 16, 2013

A four-day strike at the Brussels airport came to an end as the luggage-handling firm Swissport reached an agreement with the trade unions. The strike by luggage-handlers over working conditions left more than 20,000 pieces of luggage stranded in the country's largest hub. The unions say staff shortages at the company have led to excessive work pressure and compromised workers' safety.

English: <http://news.yahoo.com/brussels-airport-moves-end-baggage-handlers-strike ...>

### **Pay and job satisfaction**

May 7, 2013

The job search magazines Jobat and Vacature carried out job satisfaction surveys in 2012 with very similar findings. The average gross monthly wage in 2012 was €3,133 (Vacature survey) and €3,180 (Jobat). Half of the respondents earned €2,800 or less. About 80% of employees received a 13th month bonus, while about 1% also received a 14th month bonus. On average, workers had 28 holidays a year. For most employees

(63%), any pay increase was restricted to the national automatic index-linked rise.

English: <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/2013/02/BE ...>

---

## Bulgaria

### **Ambulance workers plan protest over personnel safety**

*May 28, 2013*

Following several incidents involving aggression against ambulance personnel, medical trade union Podkrepas has demanded the government take action. Podkrepas has said that if no legislative solution is forthcoming by the 15 June, the workers will organise a protest against unsafe working conditions.

English: <http://www.focus-fen.net/index ...>

### **Data on employment and wages**

*May 10, 2013*

NSI, the statistical office has updated the figures on employment and pay. In the first quarter of 2013 the average monthly wages and salaries decreased by 3.1% in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2012. The highest decrease in wages and salaries was reported in 'arts, entertainment and recreation' (-17.9%), 'education' (-10.1%) and in 'professional, scientific and technical activities' (-7.2%). Compared to the 1st quarter of 2012, the average monthly wages and salaries in the 1st quarter of 2013 rose by 4.3%. At the end of March 2013, as compared to March 2012, the number of employees under direct employment contracts declined by 24.9 thousands or 1.1%. The highest decrease in absolute figures was observed in manufacturing and in accommodation and food service activities.

English: <http://www.nsi.bg/EPDOCS/EmplsSalary2013 ...>

---

## Croatia

### **Croatia airlines pilots deal and cabin crew strike**

*May 20, 2013*

Pilots and cabin crew of state owned Croatia Airlines went on strike on 14 May in a conflict over new contracts. The company is facing large financial difficulties and have announced it will be entering a process of restructuring, which will include layoffs and pay cuts. Due to these circumstances, Croatia Airlines was unwilling to prolong old contracts as they were. Pilots and cabin crew reacted by going on a strike, grounding at least one third of all Croatia Airlines' flights. On 20 May the pilots reached a deal with Croatia Airlines and seized their industrial action, while cabin crew continued to be on strike. Earlier this month Croatia Airlines had to cancel 10 international and 3 domestic flights because 25 per cent of its cabin crew staff was on sick leave. The company announced an investigation stating that there was reason to believe that this was a kind of protest by the cabin crew unions as a result of their disagreement with the proposed collective agreement. The management no longer guaranteed 15 days' annual leave and intended to reduce the number of days off with a view to increasing productivity. Three of the six unions active in the company had signed the new collective agreement while the remaining three had not.

English: <http://www.enca.com/world-money/croatia-airlines-pilots-end-seven-day-strike>  
<http://dalje.com/en-croatia/croatia-airlines-ceo-says-25-of-cabin-crew-staff-on-sick-leave ...>

### **Transport strike called off as HZ promises to intensify social dialogue**

*May 17, 2013*

On 8 May, the Engine Drivers' Union stated that it had planned a warning strike on 15 May to draw attention to 'the catastrophic situation' in the national railways (HZ) passenger, transport and cargo companies, while at the same time the Railway Workers' Union would stage a protest rally outside the government offices in St Mark's Square. All HZ trains would be halted for two hours to bring the attention of the Transport and Infrastructure Minister to the risks to transport safety, the lack of social dialogue, failure to address the accumulated problems in both companies, failed business decisions, and violations of workers' rights, the

two unions said in a joint statement. After intervention from the ministry, trade unions and HZ reached an agreement over intensification of the social dialogue and complete involvement of the unions in the restructuring process. The unions agreed to call off the warning strike and any other strikes in the upcoming year, with the exception of those that are directly related to a possible new collective agreement.

English: <http://dalje.com/en-croatia/engine-drivers-and-management-reach-deal...>  
<http://dalje.com/en-croatia/croatian-engine-drivers-announce-two-hour-warning-strike...>

---

## Cyprus

### **Port workers warning strike**

*May 3, 2013*

Port workers staged a 24-hour warning strike over a proposal to cut their benefits. The porters reject a mediating proposal tabled by the labour ministry because it affected basic benefits like their provident fund, bonuses and other advantages. The proposal provided for a freeze in wages, a cut in the employer's contribution to the provident fund from 7% to 1%, cutting 14th salaries (Easter bonus) by half and reducing overtime pay from triple to double the hourly rate.

English: <http://www.cyprus-mail.com/14th-salary/port-workers-strike-over-benefits-cut...>

---

## Czech Republic

### **Crisis 'a hot bed for the grey economy'**

*May 13, 2013*

The turnover of the shadow economy has increased to 16% of gross domestic product (GDP), was reported in a study of the credit card company Visa. The report *The Shadow Economy in Europe* said that the share of the shadow economy in the Czech Republic is lower than Europe's average of 18.5% of GDP. It is however twice as high compared to the rate in neighbouring Austria. A Visa spokesperson said that a major decline in economic activity builds a hotbed for the grey economy as unemployment is rising and people are uncertain about their future.

English: <http://praguemonitor.com/2013/05/13...>  
[http://www.visaeurope.com/en/about\\_us/industry\\_insights.aspx](http://www.visaeurope.com/en/about_us/industry_insights.aspx)

---

## Denmark

### **Blurry picture of workplace stress**

*May 26, 2013*

A survey by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) revealed that Danes perceive work-related stress to be less of a factor than in other EU countries. According to OSHA's study, only 38% of Danes surveyed thought that work-related stress was common at their place of employment. Some 55% reported that work-related stress was rare. However, two recent surveys from trade unions document that emotional stress is very much a part of the workplace and that Danes are just as likely to be affected by work stress as other Europeans.

English: <http://cphpost.dk/news/national/surveys-paint-blurry-picture-workplace-stress>

### **New unemployment benefit scheme**

*May 23, 2013*

A new unemployment benefit (dagpenge) plan that is expected to prevent thousands of people from losing their unemployment benefit rights was recently proposed by the government. The plan will extend the current education initiative for unemployed until the end of this year and will incorporate a new labour market benefit, running from 2014 to 2017. Details were published in several articles.

English: <http://cphpost.dk/news/politics/new-dagpenge-agreement-place>  
<http://cphpost.dk/news/immigration-amp-denmark/dagpenge-agreement...>

## **Matching skills to jobs**

*May 8, 2013*

In an ILO video it is said that recovery in Europe is being hampered by the fact that many of the workers who lost their jobs to the crisis do not have the skills that the labour market demands. The interviews indicate that vocational training programmes help keep youth connected to the labour market by ensuring they have the skills that companies are looking for.

English: <http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia...>

---

## **Estonia**

### **Not ready for trade unions?**

*May 8, 2013*

According to a retiring head of the Trade Union Confederation the country has a long way to go until it reaches the level of trade unions in Scandinavia. It's not enough just to pay 1% of your salaries to trade unions in membership fees. 'People must want to protect their interests. This is where we are way behind,' he said. Scandinavian countries have launched series of actions aimed at strengthening trade union movement in the Baltic countries.

English: <http://balticbusinessnews.com/article/2013/5/6/trade-union-leaders-estonians...>

---

## **Finland**

### **Vantaa bus drivers on strike over shifts**

*May 20, 2013*

Veolia bus drivers in the town of Vantaa are entering their second week of industrial action. Over 400 bus drivers have joined the walk-out, in which they protest against a new shift system. In the new shift system, drivers could be made to work three weekends out of four, or sixteen days with only a single rest day. Bus services in Vantaa are paralysed as a result of the action.

English: [http://yle.fi/uutiset/vantaa\\_bus\\_drivers\\_strike\\_continues...](http://yle.fi/uutiset/vantaa_bus_drivers_strike_continues...)  
[http://yle.fi/uutiset/bus\\_strike\\_hits\\_vantaa\\_commuters...](http://yle.fi/uutiset/bus_strike_hits_vantaa_commuters...)

### **Sharp criticism of EU intervention in collective bargaining**

*May 8, 2013*

Experts from the three trade union confederations (Akava, SAK, STTK) have delivered harsh criticism to the EU for repeatedly breaching the freedom of collective bargaining. They refer to recent cases where the European Commission has intervened in the bargaining procedures in Romania, Greece, Spain, Ireland and Italy and weakened the position of unions. Next to full respect for the autonomy of labour market organisations the experts want a stronger role for labour market organisations in the process where euro zone's economic policy is formulated.

English: <http://www.artto.kaapeli.fi/unions/T2013/q18>

---

## **France**

### **Electricity strike in June**

*May 28, 2013*

The trade union CGT has called on electricity workers to strike on June 13 over fears jobs may be cut in the

sector as a result of an on-going review of energy policy. The strike could likely result in production capacity cuts at nuclear plants.

English: <http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/world/story/french-union-calls...>

### **CGT joins other unions to end Aulnay strike**

*May 17, 2013*

As the last of six unions that went on strike at PSA Peugeot Citroën in Aulnay, CGT has seized its industrial actions and has signed an agreement with Peugeot. The five other trade unions CFDT, CFTC, CFE/CGC, FO and GSEA signed an agreement about replacement assistance and restructuring earlier (as reported in the newsletter), which CGT refused to join. The separate agreement with CGT allows all its activists to opt into the earlier agreement, but requires all workers to go back to work, CGT to stop any actions against the restructuring plan and allows the company to forego payment of wages to the striking working for the entire duration of the strike.

English: <http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20130517...>

### **Talks on pension reform started**

*May 13, 2013*

The government is due to consult employers and trade unions through to parliament's summer recess on an overhaul of France's pension system, a reform seen as vital to sorting out French public finances. The started consultations will not give them a say in a draft law due in the second half of the year as was the case with labour market rules agreed in January (the upper house of Parliament just passed these labour market rules). France will see a 20 billion euros annual shortfall in its pension system by 2020 if it does not act. The government has ruled out increasing the legal retirement age beyond 62, but said that extending the pay-in period beyond the current 41.5 years is all but inevitable. Two other options include raising the level of contributions to the retirement system and paring down pay-outs by limiting how much pensions are adjusted for inflation. In the meantime

English: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/05/13/uk-france-pensions...>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/15/world/europe/french-lawmakers-loosen-labor-rules...>

### **Job cuts announced**

*May 7, 2013*

The bank Société Générale has planned a new-cost cutting drive that would result in hundreds of job losses, as its first-quarter net income fell sharply. The planned 900 million euros of cost reductions through 2015, add up to the 550 million euros of cuts of 2012. The bank says that it is in talks with the unions about eliminating 600 to 700 jobs at its headquarters, but added that there would be 'no forced layoffs'.

English: <http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2013/05/07/societe-generale-announces-new-cuts...>

---

## **Germany**

### **Further engineering strike averted – Pay deal at Volkswagen**

*May 28, 2013*

By mid-May Trade union IG Metall agreed a pay deal with the metal industry's employers association, averting the threat of a major strike. Salaries will increase in two steps: a 3.4% rise in July 2013 and a further 2.2% rise in May 2014. Earlier on the union declared that 400,000 workers had already joined a wave of limited warning strikes, as they sought to put pressure on their employers to increase a pay offer. The union had called for inflation-beating wage hikes of up to 5.5% for some 3.7 million workers from May. IG Metall so far rejected an offer from employers to increase wages by 2.3% from July. A deal in the state Baden-Württemberg, home to major carmakers such as Daimler and Porsche as well as manufacturers such as printing machine maker Heidelberger Druck, normally sets the tone for wage hikes in the engineering sector nationwide. Based on this deal workers at Volkswagen's German factories and financial services, in total 102,000 workers, will receive a pay hike in a two-step wage increase over the next 20 months (3.4% from September 2013 and another 2.2% from July 2014 onwards). VW has negotiated its own separate wage agreement with unions for a number of years now. The collective agreement, which will run until February 2015, includes a one-time contribution of €300 in each worker's pension plan.

English: <http://www.thelocal.de/jobs/?site...>  
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/05/07/uk-germany-strike...>  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/28/volkswagen-wages...>  
<http://www.france24.com/en/20130528-vw-management-unions-reach-pay-deal>

### **Amazon workers stage second strike**

*May 27, 2013*

Workers at Amazon.com organised a second warning strike. The industrial action takes place in a conflict over wages and working conditions. Trade union Ver.di is attempting to pressure Amazon into closing a collective agreement similar to those governing retail and mail-order workers. Amazon workers currently receive up to €9,000 per year less than workers in comparable jobs.

English: <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world-news/german-amazon-staff...>

### **Film workers get collective agreement**

*May 22, 2013*

From 2014 onwards, 25,000 workers in the film industry will have a collective agreement. According to the agreement, crew will receive a share of the exploitation revenues that will increase from 7.5 % in 2014 to 15% in 2016. The agreement will enter into force in early 2014 and will run until the end of 2016.

English: <http://www.uniglobalunion.org...>

### **Undercover at Daimler**

*May 16, 2013*

The TV-channel ARD broadcasted a SWR-report on the working conditions at a Daimler plant in Stuttgart that revealed the use of subcontractors as a method to circumvent the normal wages and working conditions. An undercover reporter contacted a staffing firm which transferred him to a logistics company used by the Daimler plant. The carmaker was accused of illegally using temporary employment, a claim the firm denies. In the meantime the public prosecutor has reacted and introduced an investigation against management.

English: <http://www.staffingindustry.com/eng/Research-Publications...>

German: <http://www.handelsblatt.com/unternehmen/industrie/ard-reportage-undercover...>

<http://www.handelsblatt.com/unternehmen/industrie/nach-ard-reportage-strafanzeige...>

### **Increase of working poor**

*May 8, 2013*

Data from the Federal Employment Agency (BA) indicate that the number of people unable to make ends meet with their wages is increasing steadily. In 2012, a total of 323,000 households in the country was receiving top-up benefits from the welfare state despite having a regular gross monthly income of over €800. The overwhelming proportion of workers affected worked in the retail sector as well as in the health and social services industries.

English: <http://www.dw.de/increasing-number-of-germans-unable-to-live-off-their-jobs...>

### **Ground workers have an agreement**

*May 7, 2013*

Lufthansa has agreed an inflation-busting pay settlement, ending a dispute which had threatened to drive travellers towards rival fliers. While the airline agreed to raise pay by up to 4.7% for cabin crew and ground staff (33,000 employees), a possible new round of strikes looms as pilots' union Cockpit demands the carrier respond to its own 4.6% wage rise proposals by the middle of this month.

English: <http://www.aviationpros.com/news/10932810/lufthansa-agrees-to-47-percent-raises...>

### **Foreign influx small part of labour shortage solutions**

*May 7, 2013*

The changes that an ageing and shrinking population is bringing to the workforce has been the subject of a

study by the Robert Bosch foundation. The study suggests the workforce could shrink by about 6m, or some 12 per cent, by 2030 without remedial action. Bringing workers from outside is only a small part of what politicians say must be a range of solutions to the labour shortage, including getting more women into the workforce and keeping older employees in work for longer.

English: <http://www.ft.com/cms...>

German: <http://www.bosch-stiftung.de/content...>

---

## Greece

### **Workers' control at VIOME**

*May 23, 2013*

The plan of the workers of VIOME (Industrial Mineral), a factory in northern Greece, to take over the factory and to manage it themselves has generated waves of encouragement and support throughout the world. Following a period of relative inactivity and industrial disputes, the VIOME trade union called out in April 2012 to associations and other trade unions of Thessaloniki for aid. The correspondence revived the workers' morale and gave a new prospect to their fight, culminating in the creation of a 'Solidarity Initiative' in support of workers' self-management in VIOME, in July 2012.

English: <http://borderlinereports.net/2013/05/23/viome-a-workers-experiment...>

### **Air traffic controllers' solidarity strike**

*May 16, 2013*

Air traffic controllers began a four-hour work stoppage, disrupting flights at the start of the tourist season. The strike was to show solidarity with the striking teachers forced back to work after the government exercised emergency powers.

English: <http://www.news24.com/Travel/International/Greek-air-traffic-controllers-strike...>

### **Teachers threatened with arrest cancel strike**

*May 16, 2013*

The government has threatened high school teachers with arrest if they go ahead with a nationwide strike that would disrupt university entrance exams. It is the third time in 2013 this government has invoked emergency law to force strikers back to work. The conservative-led coalition wants state high school teachers to put in two more hours of work each week and transfer 4,000 of them to remote parts of the country in order to plug staffing gaps. OLME, the teachers' trade union, says that under the plan, about 10,000 part-time teachers could be dismissed once their temporary contracts expire. Just before the strike, teachers backed down and organised a four-hour walk out instead of the forbidden strike.

English: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/17/world/europe/greece-teachers-abandon-strike...>

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/05/12/uk-greece-strike...>

---

## Hungary

### **State-led trade union proposed**

*May 16, 2013*

Parliament is considering a law which would require all teachers to join a new organisation whose task would be to represent educators in negotiations with the state. Under the proposal all school and kindergarten teachers who work in state-run institutions would automatically become members. Unlike most unions, there will be no membership fees. The organisation's officers and coordinators in each county will receive a modest state salary. The proposal is motivated with the argument that 'the government has found it difficult to conduct negotiations with several different representative groups'. In practice the government has often clashed with the trade unions over issues such as wages and the takeover of local schools by the central government.

English: <http://www.politics.hu/20130516/government-mulling-creation-of-single-mandatory...>

## **Trade union alliance in the making**

*May 5, 2013*

The three biggest trade union associations — ASZSZ, MSZOSZ and SZE — announced their alliance at a joint general meeting in Budapest on International Workers' Day. The aim is to establish an alliance that could fight for the acknowledgement of labour, for greater security and for dignified living conditions. The three associations represent almost 70 unions with some 300,000 members, or about two-thirds of unionised labour.

English: <http://www.politics.hu/20130502/biggest-trade-union-associations-announce...>

---

## **Iceland**

### **Unemployment rate decreases**

*May 1, 2013*

Statistics Iceland's labour market report of the 1st quarter of 2013 indicates that the number of persons in the labour force was 178,300 which corresponds to an activity rate of 78.9%. The number of employed persons was 167,900 and unemployed persons were 10,300. The employment rate was 74.3% and the unemployment rate was 5.8%. From the 1st quarter of 2012 the number of employed persons increased by 4,100 and the number of unemployed persons decreased by 2,400. The statistics are provided with (short) English explanations.

English: <http://www.statice.is/lisalib/getfile...>

---

## **Ireland**

### **Record settlement for ship crew**

*May 28, 2013*

The Ukrainian and Russian crew of the mv Clipper Faith freighter, which stranded in Dublin since December 2012, were paid €314,160.62 in arrears of wages. The crew will now be able to return home. The arrears were secured by the International Transport Workers' Federation and the amount is the largest ever secured for the crew of a merchant vessel in Ireland. The arrears had accumulated since 1 December with no sign of ever being paid. The mv Clipper Faith was arrested by the Netherlands Bank BV on 12 March 2012 in a dispute over mortgage repayments by Sea Management Woodford Green, the London based owner-operators of the Belize flagged vessel. The breakthrough came after a proposal by the ITF co-ordinator in Britain and Ireland, Ken Fleming of SIPTU, who agreed to seek an order from the High Court for appraisal and sale of the vessel if the bank released the vessel, guaranteed to pay the crew's arrears and to pay for a replacement crew to take over within 21 days. In return the crew members agreed to subrogate their lien on the wages to the Bank.

English: <http://www.siptu.ie/media/pressreleases2013/featurednews...>

### **Breakthrough in Croke Park II negotiations**

*May 23, 2013*

There have been significant breakthroughs in the bid to secure reductions in the government's pay bill by agreement with a number of trade unions after the government revised key elements of its original proposals regarding pay cuts and freezing increments for higher earners. This move was welcomed by a number of unions including the Association of Higher Civil and Public Servants, which had rejected the Croke Park II proposals last month. Trade unions SIPTU and INMO have made known they will be recommending the deal to their members, whereas the ASTI and TUI have refused to re-ballot members and remain against. Separately, a deal in principle was reached with organisations representing gardai who had walked out of the process before the Croke Park II proposals were finalised. This agreement in principle is understood to be aimed at generating savings of between €16 million and €17 million this year. The new proposals shift more of the burden of pay and pension cuts to the highest earning civil servants and explicitly includes pay of politicians.

English: <http://www.rte.ie/news/2013/0523/452135-haddington-road-agreement/>  
<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/significant-progress-in-talks-between-government-and...>

### **Almost complete bus strike brings results**

*May 16, 2013*

Strike actions by the National Bus and Rail Union have completely paralysed the bus traffic. Government has invited the union to re-enter talks with the company. Both sides have indicated they are available for talks in the dispute, which centres on a proposal to introduce a €5 million cost-cutting plan. But, the trade union NBRU has said it is not reasonable to set preconditions to negotiations, such as requiring unions to come to the table with alternative cost-saving measures. After more than 26 hours of mediated negotiations, the parties found an agreement which ended the strike. The agreement, which will last for nineteen months, includes a larger pay cut for management and protects anti-social shift payments.

English: <http://www.rte.ie/news/2013/0516/450556-bus-eireann-strike/>  
<http://www.rte.ie/news/2013/0513/391899-bus-eireann-strike/>  
[http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/bus ...](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/bus...)

### **Court rules agreements unconstitutional**

*May 9, 2013*

The Supreme Court has declared the Registered Employment Agreements, which set pay rates for certain sectors, unconstitutional. In a significant judgment affecting several employment sectors, the court ruled such agreements are incompatible with the constitution as these delegated law-making powers beyond the Parliament (Oireachtas). The challenge to the REAs was taken by electrical contractors, who welcomed the decision. The electricians' trade union TEEU has said the decision does not overturn existing pay rates and conditions. However, the electrical contractors group, the NECI, said the judgment means all current agreements 'are cancelled'.

English: [http://www.rte.ie/news/2013/0509/391278-court-finds-employment ...](http://www.rte.ie/news/2013/0509/391278-court-finds-employment...)

---

## **Italy**

### **EasyJet and Lufthansa strike**

*May 28, 2013*

A four hour strike of the EasyJet's flight attendants, the first national protest by stewards and hostesses of the airline, was fixed by the trade unions Filt Cgil and Fit Cisl. The unions demand a dialogue with the cheap carrier over the working conditions of the staff. At Air Dolomiti, a Lufthansa subsidiary, the trade unions staged a strike after four pilots were dismissed for voicing concern about the future of the airline.

English: [http://www.avionews.com/index.php ...](http://www.avionews.com/index.php...)

### **Protesters gather in Rome to demand jobs**

*May 20, 2013*

About 100,000 people joined a protest march in Rome, organised by the metal workers' union. Protesters demanded the government to start investing in job creation. Union leaders said that the new government needed to shift away from the austerity agenda pursued by former prime minister Mario Monti, who introduced a range of spending cuts, tax rises and pension reform to shore up strained public finances.

English: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-22581759>

### **Austerity doesn't work**

*May 7, 2013*

An interesting Column of the Global Labour University provides a historical analysis of the socio-economic development. The country was one the fastest growing industrialised European countries between 1950 and 1990, partly due to low wages which helped competitiveness. The economic landscape was marked by the presence of a few major enterprises (including Fiat, Pirelli, Olivetti) and big state-owned enterprises (Ansaldo-Breda, Fin-cantieri, Eni, Enel, etc.) that provided long-term investment and innovation, facilitating

the emergence of plenty of successful SMEs. Nowadays the country suffers a huge lack of long-term investment, especially after implementing austerity measures, and a very high rate of unemployment. The way out of the crisis is through fair taxation (of the resources accumulated in private wealth), an end to the fixation on state deficits, more priority to investment and a (German) wage-led increased demand.

English: <http://www.global-labour-university.org ...>

---

## Latvia

### **Social partners in food and drink portrayed**

*May 8, 2013*

The food and drink sector produces more than 15% of manufacture value added (1.7% of total national GDP) and employs around 2.5% of the total number of employed. Collective bargaining exists only at company level. By rough estimation, not more than 15% of workers are covered by company-level collective agreements. The main reason for this is disharmony between representativeness of workers and employers. Employees are represented by two trade unions, both including workers from outside the food and drink sector. Employers are represented by more than 20 organisations. The majority of them are convinced that company-level collective bargaining is sufficient and sector-level bargaining is not needed. This is why problems relating to representativeness in the food and drink sector are neither raised nor discussed.

English: <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/studies ...>

---

## Lithuania

### **Trade unions and employer associations in the food and drink sector**

*May 7, 2013*

The manufacture of food products and beverages has traditionally played a fairly important role in the economy. The sector contributes around 4% of the GDP and employs about 5% of the workforce. Although the sector has several employer associations, none of them has taken the role of the employer or participated in collective bargaining at sectoral level. There is one strong sectoral trade union – the LMP – joining more than 20 large enterprises in the food and drink sector. Collective bargaining coverage in the sector might be equal to approximately 25%.

English: <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/studies ...>

---

## Luxembourg

### **Unions propose a loan to Cargolux**

*May 22, 2013*

Trade unions LCGB and OGBL and Cargolux have agreed to extend the current collective agreement to the end of 2014 as negotiations for a new agreement proceed slowly. Trade unions are asking for less cuts and fewer layoffs. Amongst other things, the unions proposed that employees would temporarily forego their thirteenth month salary, to receive the pay only when the company will be in a position to afford it. Cargolux management, however, is holding on to larger cuts in order to reach a \$49 million profit in 2014.

English: <http://www.wort.lu/en/view/unions-and-cargolux-at-odds-over-collective ...>

### **Pay rise after 5 years of negotiations**

*May 14, 2013*

After five long years of negotiations in the private bus sector, unions have finally reached a positive agreement on pay. The trade unions OGBL, LCGB and FLEAA unions and employers in the sector signed a collective agreement for bus drivers and assistants. As of 1 June 2013, workers will see a wage increase of 1.6%. In addition there will be the introduction of detailed and transparent accounting of all wage

calculations, especially regarding work hours and length of service.

English: <http://www.wort.lu/en/view/after-5-years-of-negotiations-bus-workers-get...>

## **Employers against planned labour reform**

*May 8, 2013*

Employers' organisation UEL wants the government to withdraw current plans for a reform of staff representation under a new labour law. According to the UEL the law would not lead to a better representation of staff and improved dialogue between employees and employers. Instead, it would give unions increased powers within businesses. The reform foresees a restructuring of staff delegations, such as the abolition of the joint works council, which brings together workers and employer representatives. The staff delegation, which does not include the employer, would get more power and more members, which will be able to get more paid hours of leave to fulfil their duties representing staff. The possibility for staff delegations to invite external consultants, including unionists, at the company's expense would increase.

English: <http://www.wort.lu/en/view/business-union-objects-to-new-labour-law...>

French (UEL-statement): <http://www.uel.lu/images/stories...>

---

## **Malta**

### **Work rosters 'inhumane'**

*May 29, 2013*

The transport trade union General Workers' Union has described the new Arriva work rosters set to enter into force at the end of May as 'inhumane'. In a statement the GWU condemned Arriva accusing it of creating unnecessary hardship for Arriva employees whilst accusing it of issuing these rosters with no consultation. As a result the dispute has now been referred to the Director of Industrial Relations.

English: <http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2013-05-29...>

---

## **Netherlands**

### **Making migration work**

*May 30, 2013*

The Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR) has presented the publication *Making Migration Work (In Betere Banen)*. In the report several renowned researchers have analysed current European labour migration flows and the challenges these pose for employment and mobility in a globalising economy. The authors argue for a more considered and effective labour migration policy for the long term.

English: <http://www.wrr.nl/en/actueel/agenda...>

### **Second cut for civil service pensioners?**

*May 29, 2013*

The civil servant pension fund ABP, one of the biggest pension funds in the world, will have to cut pay-outs for a second time this year, the civil service fund said. ABP reduced pay-outs by 0.5% earlier in 2013. But with a current coverage ratio of 100% and a target of 104% by the end of 2013, further cuts cannot be ruled out, the fund said.

English: [http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2013/05/civil\\_service\\_pensioners...](http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2013/05/civil_service_pensioners...)

---

## **Norway**

### **Deals herald end of two-month period of industrial dispute**

May 27, 2013

Air traffic in the north of the country came to a standstill as ground crew of the domestic airline Widerøe went on strike in March 2013. The strike spread out, effectively suspending air traffic at the northern airports of Brønnøysund, Svolvær, Vardø, Vadsø, Mehamn and Honningsvåg. While several issues between trade union LFF and the firm providing ground services to Widerøe remain unresolved, the workers went back to work. The cabin crew's strike at the Widerøe airline also ended, after the staff and management reached an agreement. The flight attendants were striking for the right to determine their own pension programs. Their trade union Parat believes the flight attendants, the vast majority of whom are women, should have the same pension rights as pilots. According to Parat the crew won their case and will now have the opportunity to influence the future of their own pension plans.

English: <http://www.newsenglish.no/2013/05/27/airport-strike-in-north-finally-ends/>  
<http://www.norwaypost.no/index.php/news/latest-news/28519-the-wideroe-strike-is-over>  
<http://www.newsenglish.no/2013/05/08/wideroe-on-strike-flights-grounded/>

## **Report on early retirement**

May 23, 2013

The research institute FAFO published a paper about the early retirement systems, age retirement limits and pension schemes for occupations that have a lower age limit than standard age limit in the occupational pension system. The study looks at schemes either based on legislation or on collective agreements. The overall pension system has undergone several changes over the past seven years. It is expected that the traditional define benefit schemes will be transformed to new types of (hybrid) pension systems.

English: <http://www.fafo.no/pub/rapp/10177/10177.pdf>

## **Government halts electricity strike as it widens**

May 14, 2013

The Electrician and IT Workers' Union called a strike on 29 April of 80 members who seek to sign a collective agreement with IT infrastructure company Atea. On May 7, it expanded the action to 3,000 members at regional power companies that are customers of Atea. The LO-affiliated trade union has now brought 466 of the members out on a solidarity strike. The walkout not only affects customers of western Norway companies Lyse and Haugaland Kraft, but could lead to national blackouts. At the urging of the Labour Ministry, the parties have returned to work.

English: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/05/16/norway-power-strike...>  
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/05/14/norway-power-strike...>  
<http://theforeigner.no/pages/news/electricity-strike-widens-blackouts-and-international...>

---

## **Poland**

### **No time for strike according to deputy PM**

May 20, 2013

The leaders of the three trade union confederations met to consider joint strike actions in the autumn in protest over government plans to increase flexible working hours and cut overtime payments. They also want a substantial increase of the minimum wage. The deputy prime minister told Polish Radio that trade unionists should call off planned strikes as the country fights to maintain economic growth. He called for dialogue between unions and government, as well as between unions and employers, after the Solidarity trade union, threatened a 'general strike' over pay and working conditions after talks with the government ended in stalemate in April. The plan to coordinate protest action is historic.

English: <http://www.thenews.pl/1/12/Artykul/134897,Deputy-PM...>  
<http://www.thenews.pl/1/12/Artykul/136221,Polands-trade-unions-to-coordinate...>

## **Free-fall for trade union membership**

May 16, 2013

Trade union membership levels are the lowest recorded since the transition to democracy, says a CBOS

survey from April this year. Only 10% of Poles are now affiliated with any trade union; the number halved since 1991 and dwarfed compared to the 1980s, when independent trade union Solidarnosc alone could count 25% of the population as its members.

English: <http://www.thenews.pl/1/9/Artykul/135797,Trade-union-membership-falls ...>

---

---

## Portugal

### **Change the policy that creates a nightmare**

*May 27, 2013*

In his regular Blog in the New York Times Paul Krugman comments on a FT-publication about the difficult situation that Portugal is in. The classical answer to this kind of problems would be expansionary monetary and fiscal policy. Without its own currency this is no option. His alternative is a much stronger expansion in the euro area as a whole and higher inflation in the European core. Looser monetary policy could help achieve these things, and as much help as possible from fiscal policy too — not a situation in which austerity in the periphery is reinforced by austerity in the core.

English: <http://krugman.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/05/27/nightmare-in-portugal/>  
<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms ...>

### **Teachers to strike on exams days**

*May 20, 2013*

Nine trade unions representing educational staff have threatened to derail centralised tests throughout the country by announcing a strike on two exam days in June. Unions have stated the teachers have nothing left to lose and will strike one more time before the summer holiday months, when they will be left without leverage due to schools being closed. The strike hits the examination processes in secondary schools, including those pupils taking their final year exams.

English: <http://theportugalnews.com/news/teachers-call-strike-for-exam-day/28457>

### **New round of job cuts and pension age raised**

*May 3, 2013*

In order to meet the demands of international creditors the government has launched new budget cuts, including cutting 30,000 public sector jobs, introducing a 40-hour work week for civil servants and raising the retirement age to 66. The government was forced to revise its 2013 austerity plans after the country's Constitutional Court rejected several projected cuts. Meanwhile, the economy is expected to shrink by 2.3% this year with unemployment poised to breach a record 18%.

English: <http://www.france24.com/en/20130503-portugal-austerity-raises ...>  
<http://www.epsu.org/a/9495>

---

---

## Romania

### **Post offices closed**

*May 14, 2013*

A sudden strike action has spread at Romanian Post. 14 Post offices in Bucharest were closed down and workers in other offices are threatening to stop work. The workers interrupted work because they are unhappy that the Post leadership wants to impose a number of unpaid free days and reduce the work schedule for all employees. They complain that they have to deliver the mail in just one delivery round a day, down from two previously. Employees say one trip is too little for the high volume of mail to deliver. Another complaint is that the management is reducing the working hours, leading to a salary cut of 15 to 20%.

English: <http://www.romania-insider.com/sudden-strike-action-spreads ...>

## **Layoffs before privatisation**

*May 9, 2013*

Around 900 employees in the state-owned and insolvent chemical producer Oltchim will be laid off, 600 of whom will be from the main company in Ramnicu Valcea, and 300 from a subsidiary near Pitesti. The number of people who need to be laid off is a maximum of 1,050, and was established based on the minimum amount that needs to be saved on salary costs.

English: <http://www.romania-insider.com/romanias-insolvent-oltchim-to-layoff ...>

---

## **Serbia**

### **Situation of workers never been worse**

*May 16, 2013*

The Association of Free and Independent Trade Unions has warned that the position of workers has never been worse in recent history. The union made this statement because of the enormous number of jobless people, the permanent disregard of the Labour Law and collective agreements, no guarantee of payment for work done and no payments of social or pension contributions.

English: <http://www.b92.net/eng/news ...>

---

## **Slovakia**

### **EU says old-age benefits are transferable**

*May 6, 2013*

Every senior living in Slovakia whose pension does not exceed 60% of the average monthly wage is entitled to a special old-age benefit, according to a law passed in 2006. Yet pensioners who move to another EU or EEA state lose their eligibility for the benefit, the so-called Christmas allowance, regardless of how many years they have worked in Slovakia. Because of such practices the European Commission has referred Slovakia to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), saying that it is breaching 'its obligations under EU law on social security coordination'.

English: <http://spectator.sme.sk/articles ...>

---

## **Slovenia**

### **Agreement on public sector wage cuts**

*May 14, 2013*

The government has formally approved an agreement it reached with trade unions to cut public sector wages by up to 4.8% as part of budget austerity measures the country needs to avoid an international bailout. Wage cuts in the country's large public sector follow earlier pay reductions carried out by the previous conservative government.

English: <http://online.wsj.com/article ...>

---

## **Spain**

### **Thirty-seven TV channels off air as Prisa TV workers strike**

*May 27, 2013*

Workers at Prisa TV have announced a one-week strike, which will affect 37 TV channels, including sports channels currently broadcasting the Roland Garros tournament and the football leagues. Prisa TV is being taken over by its mother company, a move which is expected to be accompanied by job losses.

English: <http://www.rapidtvnews.com/index ...>

### **Pilot project for skilled migrants**

*May 16, 2013*

The German journal *Der Spiegel* reports of a pilot program organised by the Chamber of Crafts for Munich and Upper Bavaria. The program aims to address the shortage of medium-skilled specialised workers among small- and medium-sized companies, considered to be the engine that keeps the German economy humming. Spaniards between the ages of 18 and 30 possessed of job training and work experience are paired with employers in and around Munich that have job openings. The program reflects a growing awareness among companies and trade unions that they, too, have a stake in the integration of immigrant workers. The program hopes to place at least 21 Spanish workers by the end of its pilot phase at the end of 2013.

English: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/bavarian-companies-set-sights ...>

### **Protest against education reform**

*May 10, 2013*

Thousands of students and teachers staged a strike across Spain on Thursday to protest government austerity measures and a planned new education reforms. Teachers are working in very limited conditions with less time and fewer teachers than before. The stoppage affected all levels of education and union pickets were placed at many schools and universities across the country. Organisers claimed a 65% turnout by teachers for the strike, while the Education Ministry put the figure at 19%.

English: <http://www.eitb.com/en/news ...>

---

## **Sweden**

### **Tips for a better salary**

*May 13, 2013*

The white-collar trade union Unionen has formulated ten tips for earning a higher salary. First thing is to check if the workplace has a collective bargaining agreement. A great deal of companies in the country has this arrangement, which could be a key difference for people coming in from another country. There aren't laws governing wages, because the labour market model is dominated by a central wage contract – where the unions collectively agree bargains with employers' organisations. The second structure is the local wage contract where employees go on to make a deal with their specific company. This deal is not allowed to include worse working conditions or lower wages than the industry-wide central wage contract. The third level, the individual wage contract has the potential for more leverage, but workers need to make sure that their actual job contract states they have the right to renegotiate.

English: <http://www.thelocal.se/jobs ...>

### **Job guarantees for young people**

*May 8, 2013*

Youth guarantees programmes can help keep youth connected to the labour market by boosting skills and giving them support to find jobs. An ILO-video on YouTube illustrates the Swedish initiatives in this area.

English: <http://www.youtube.com/watch ...>

---

## **Switzerland**

### **Transparency in pay demanded**

May 1, 2013

The issue of fair pay has been at the centre of discussions for some time. But employers are opposed to demands by the political left, trade unions and scientists for salary transparency. The trade union confederation commissioned an interactive computer application from the Employment Observatory of Geneva University. The online salary calculator, launched eight years ago, tries to determine the average salary for specific types of skilled labour in about 70 economic branches in the private sector, broken down into separate regions. It serves two purposes: employees can compare their own salary with others offered on the market. It also allows employers to check their competitive edge when it comes to pay systems.

English: [http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/business/Wage\\_calculators\\_help\\_fight...](http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/business/Wage_calculators_help_fight...)

French: <http://www.lohn-sgb.ch/index.F.html>

German: <http://www.lohn-sgb.ch/index.D.html>

Italian: <http://www.lohn-sgb.ch/index.I.html>

---

## Turkey

### Airline strike in a grim atmosphere

May 15, 2013

The trade union Hava-Is, which represents 14,000 of the airline's 15,800 workers, accused Turkish Airlines of intimidation to undermine a strike in protest over pay and previous sackings. The union said its impact would increase as it gains momentum. There was a heavy police presence at Turkey's busiest airport, where Hava-Is members gathered to hold a protest. Nevertheless, the strike is potentially significant for Turkish Airlines, ranked Europe's fourth-largest by passenger numbers, since sustained action could undermine expansion plans at one of the world's fastest-growing carriers. The union has been negotiating salaries and rest periods for long flights, which do not meet international standards.

English: <http://www.worldbulletin.net...>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2013/05/14/world...>

### Collective bargaining in a cul-de-sac

May 13, 2013

Collective bargaining between Türk Metal Union and Turk Metal Industrialists' Union (MESS) has come to a deadlock. The trade union is considering a strike within 60 days and has warned that workers will protest against the employers through several actions in the meantime. The negotiations on the collective agreement concern 115,000 workers employed in Turkey's top automotive, white goods, electronic and iron and steel industries, in addition to other large sectors and public servants' labour agreements. It is the largest and most significant collective labour agreement. The union is demanding an 18% increase to every worker's salary for a six-month period.

English: <http://www.hurriyedailynews.com/115000-workers-mull-strike...>

---

## United Kingdom

### Fifth post office strike since Easter

May 28, 2013

Post Office workers are to strike for the fifth time since Easter in protest against planned closures, which could affect up to 800 jobs across the country. The strike action will occur across 373 stores and could be observed by 4,000 staff, after union members voted nine to one in favour of strike action. Strike action has already been observed on 30 March, 19 April, 29 April and 7 May 2013. There is massive public opposition to the closure and franchise plans and Post Office management have had to admit that their figures on the trade unions' pay claim were wrong. Trade union CWU stated that talks have been held with no progress over major issues, leaving the unions with 'little option' other than to serve notice for more strike action.

English: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk ...>

## **Banks cut further jobs**

*May 16, 2013*

Both RBS and HSBC have announced further job cuts. Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) is to cut a further 1,400 jobs from its retail banking head office over the next two years. Most of the job losses are expected to be at RBS's offices in Edinburgh. Trade union Unite has described the cuts as 'brutal'. Meanwhile, the bank HSBC has said it may cut an additional 14,000 jobs globally as part of a restructuring plan to reduce costs and increase profitability.

English: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-22550543>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-22537306>

## **Youth perspectives are negative**

*May 14, 2013*

A TUC study finds 58% of 18-24-year-olds found work in 2013, against almost 65% in 2009, leaving a shortfall of 395,000 jobs. As published by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development the battle for work is exemplified by data showing that as many as 45 people are applying for every low-skilled job. Many employers overwhelmed with applications told the CIPD they would not even consider school leavers or the long term unemployed. The number of people looking for work rose by 70,000 between December 2012 and February 2013, according to the latest count, taking the unemployment tally to 2.56 million people, 7.9% of the labour force.

English: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2013/may/14/young-people ...>

## **Yes vote for tube strike**

*May 10, 2013*

In separate ballots RMT members working on the Tube have voted for strike action over a host of industrial issues. Staff on the Piccadilly Line voted 9:1 for action in response to London Underground riding roughshod over agreements and abusing a range of agreed policies and procedures. Drivers at a range of depots serving the Hammersmith and City, Metropolitan and Circle Lines voted to take action over disputes arising from the introduction of new trains. Tube cleaners working for Danish multi-national ISS on London Underground Tube Lines contract by 100% for strike action in a dispute over pay and workplace justice and electricians and engineers working for contractors Mitie on the TfL contract have voted by around 9:1 one for action in a dispute over redundancies and unilateral changes to working conditions.

English: <http://union-news.co.uk/2013/05/breaking-massive-yes-vote-for-four-tube-strikes/>

.....

For more information, please contact the editor Jan Cremers, Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies (AIAS) [cbn-alias@uva.nl](mailto:cbn-alias@uva.nl) or the communications officer at the ETUI, Mariya Nikolova [mnikolova@etui.org](mailto:mnikolova@etui.org). For previous issues of the *Collective bargaining newsletter* please visit <http://www.etui.org/E-Newsletters/Collective-bargaining-newsletter>. You may find further information on the ETUI at [www.etui.org](http://www.etui.org), and on the AIAS at [www.uva-alias.net](http://www.uva-alias.net).

© ETUI aisbl, Brussels 2013. All rights reserved. We encourage the distribution of this newsletter and of the information it contains, for non-commercial purposes and provided the source is credited. The ETUI is not responsible for the content of external internet sites. The ETUI is financially supported by the European Union. The European Union is not responsible for any use made of the information contained in this publication.

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please contact Mariya Nikolova [mnikolova@etui.org](mailto:mnikolova@etui.org).