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**Onderwerp:** NEW Just Transition Newsletter december 2009

*December 2009*

## **ETUI news**

**Editorial**, Philippe Pochet, General Director, ETUI

### **Preventing the risk of a "green capitalism"**

The Copenhagen Summit reflects the consolidation of a new form of global governance. This has been developing at various levels and comprises networking of and by cities, regions, states and many players from civil society and trade unions. Such networking has supplemented the arrangements made since (and owing to) the crisis, i.e. the G-20 and the new role for international organisations, which definitely includes a more important role for the ILO.

This is a radical change and it is key to producing effective measures and creating a common vision for the future. However, we should not be naïve. Behind the emerging consensus, at least in terms of public statements, there remain numerous areas of tension, including the social dimension. [Read more](#)

### **ETUI's activities in Copenhagen**

To coincide with the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and the Hans Böckler Foundation are organising two events linked to the issue of sustainable development.

- "The sustainable company - how can worker participation foster the concept in company boardrooms?" takes place on 15-17 December and seeks to examine how worker representatives in company boardrooms inside European companies can contribute to future company performance, innovation and the future industrial workplace.
- "The sustainable company - importance and role for workers interest representation", forms part of the "World of Work Pavilion - unions have solutions initiatives" event that takes place on 14-16 December. [Read more](#)

## **Trade unions in action**

### **"Commission's only labour market response to climate change is greater implementation of the flexicurity agenda" (EMF)**

Interview with Judith Kirton-Darling (EMF Industrial Policy Advisor) and Wolf Jäcklein (EMF Policy Adviser). [Read more](#)

### **Just Transition for workers, a key issue of the Barcelona Talks**

The last negotiating session before the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen concluded in Barcelona the first week of November. The Spanish trade union Comisiones Obreras stated that despite the lack of agreement on the financial issues, the positive aspect of the talks was that just transition for workers was maintained in the draft of the resolution. [ITUC report: Sign the Manifesto for a just transition](#)

### **Scotland: "Climate change is a health and safety issue"**

Scottish trade unions warned that climate change is an urgent health and safety issue for the planet and its people. UNISON Scotland wants world leaders to agree a deal that is fair to developing countries, whose people are already being hit the hardest, and fair to working people by ensuring a just transition to a low carbon future. [Read more](#)

### **Campaign videos on climate change**

The International Trade Union Confederation and the Foundation Sustainlabour have released four videos that highlight trade union action on climate change. The videos feature trade union environmental activists from all parts of the world and have been released in time to coincide with the Copenhagen Conference on climate change. The central message of the

videos is that climate change is a core issue for all trade unionists. [To watch the videos](#)

## **REACH: the 15 new substances to be added on the Candidate List were also on the ETUC list**

The Member States Committee of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has unanimously agreed on December 4<sup>th</sup> that a further 15 substances of very high concern (SVHC) should be included on the REACH Candidate List of substances that may require authorisation under REACH. All 15 substances were also present on the Trade Union Priority List published by ETUC in March 2008. [Read more](#)

## **EU news**

### **Do workers need new skills for the new jobs?**

The European Commission published 18 sectoral studies that look at emerging and future skills needed for new jobs up to 2020. The studies cover diverse sectors like the automotive, transport, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, financial services and health. Their recommendations form a guide for national and regional actors to adapt such recommendations to their level. [Read more](#)

### **EU agrees on new energy-efficiency labels**

The Swedish EU Presidency struck a deal on 17 November with the European Parliament on a new energy label for household appliances which will add more classes to the closed A-G format. The EU lawmakers settled on an energy label to which additional 'A' classes can be added on top of the traditional best-performing 'A' category. The highest possible class will now be A+++. The agreement also extends energy labelling from household goods to all energy-related products, like windows and outer doors that do not directly use energy but help to save it. Energy-consuming commercial and industrial products like cold storage rooms or vending machines will also come with an energy label in future. [Read more](#)

### **"The whole of civil society is affected by climate change" (EESC)**

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) published the draft Resolution *No Turning Back on climate change* on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, in which it urges the European Union to maintain its own level of commitment to reach an eco-efficient low carbon sustainable model. The design of a new production and consumption model is a transformation that should be viewed as a challenge to create a new wave of technological and social innovation. [Read more](#)

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For more information, please contact the editor, Aida Ponce, [aponce@etui.org](mailto:aponce@etui.org). Further information on <http://www.etui.org/en/Headline-issues/Just-Transition>

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# **Just Transition Newsletter**

**This e-newsletter keeps you informed on the activities of the European workers' movement towards a just transition into a sustainable society. It links issues on climate change, work and social justice.**

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