


Van: noreply@etui.org
Aan: veerle.solia@amsab.be
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Onderwerp: New Just Transition Newsletter January 2010

January 2010

ETUI news

Editorial, Philippe Pochet, General Director, ETUI

Copenhagen: really such a failure?

The verdict across Europe is pretty much unanimous: last December's climate summit in Copenhagen was a failure. It was certainly a failure for the European Union as an international player. The EU that was seeking leadership was completely sidelined in the final hours of negotiation. But does this make it a failure in terms of the battle against global warming? Not necessarily. [Read more](#)

The ETUI at Copenhagen: workers' participation and the sustainable company

On the occasion of the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen last December, the European Trade Union Institute Worker Participation Competence Centre (EWPPC), together with the Hans Böckler Foundation, organised a seminar at the Danish Metalworkers' Training Centre. The meeting's main target group was workers' representatives in boardrooms of transnational companies in Europe. Participants from eight companies and six countries learned about the concept of the "sustainable company" and discussed how worker participation can implement and foster the concept in company boardrooms. [Read more](#)

Trade unions in action

"Copenhagen: an anti-climax", said the ETUC

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) considers that the outcome of the Copenhagen climate negotiations is a failure at both the environmental and social levels. It is also and above all proof of the institutional collapse of the international negotiation system. For the European trade union movement, the European Union must make a commitment to an urgent resumption of the negotiations. [Read more](#)

British Trade Unions campaign against climate change

Four British trade unions from the sectors of transport (TSSA), communication (CWU), services (PCS) and university (UCU) are campaigning to tackle climate change. Among other claims, they call for 1 million climate jobs. "We are arguing that government investment can create jobs that reduce greenhouse emissions and provide jobs", said the unions. The campaign will culminate on 13 March 2010 when they will be organising a conference to be held in London.

[The Conference special webpage](#)

The 'green economy', an opportunity for women?

The 'green economy' can be an opportunity for women to gain their rightful place in the workforce through better-paid, non-traditional jobs -defined as those where women represent less than 25% of the workforce. This is the viewpoint developed in a recent report by the trade union-based Sustainlabour Foundation. Titled 'Green jobs and women workers. Employment, Equity, Equality', the report recommends that the international Trade Union movement implement targeted campaigns to organise female workers in potential green sectors. In traditionally male-dominated sectors, new approaches are needed to increase the recruitment and retention of women and to integrate them into unions as well as companies.

[The Report](#)

EU news

EU States split on 30% CO2 cuts

The EU environment ministers met on 15-16 January in Seville, Spain, to assess the reasons for the failure of the Copenhagen UN climate summit and to map out the EU's next moves. European Union Member States are divided over the objective of a 30% cut in CO2 emissions by 2020. The UK, France, Germany, Belgium and Spain all back a jump to 30%, while Italy and Poland remain dead set against such a move. [Read more](#)

The new Environment Commissioner wants to prioritise green growth and biodiversity

Breaking the link between economic growth and resource use and better protecting biodiversity will be among the priorities of DG Environment in the next years, incoming Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik told MEPs on 13 January. Mr Potocnik said he would consider setting resource efficiency targets, a long-standing demand from NGOs, but that the question was "not so much about how much but how" to cut resource use. [Read more](#)

REACH: ECHA starts to publish information on safe use of chemicals for citizens

Since December 2010, hazard and safe-use information on chemical substances that have been registered by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) are available online. Over time, this growing database will permit citizens to make well informed decisions about the use of chemicals or articles containing chemicals they purchase. The information was provided by companies that manufacture or import these substances. It will be updated each time additional information is received by ECHA. [Read more](#)

Other actors

Global carbon trading up in 2009, though prices lower

The global market for allowances to emit greenhouse gases and credits to offset emissions grew last year, though the market's value was about even with 2008 as prices fell, according to a study released on 6 January. [Read more](#)

For more information, please contact the editor, Aida Ponce, 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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