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Onderwerp: NEW Just Transition Newsletter february 2010

February 2010

ETUI news

Laurent Vogel, Health and Safety, Department Director.

"The relative appeal of green jobs"

Green jobs occupy a prominent place in the debate around the environment. They are often billed as a cure-all for job losses across traditional sectors of industry: it is claimed that these jobs lost are made up for by the creation of new jobs in activities to remedy or prevent various types of environmental damage.

The most 'promising' sectors are often quoted as being the likes of waste recycling, water purification, the production of renewable energy and the production of insulation materials for buildings.

Gamesa is a Spanish multinational, one of the finest examples of green capitalism, certified, labelled, and making much of its commitments to the environment, its 'collaborators' - in other words its staff - and 'communities'. The company is posting enviable profits. Is it a success story for a win-win-win scenario?

[Read more](#)

ETUI activities

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](#)

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 (EWPCC), together with the Hans Böckler Foundation (Germany), organised a seminar at the Danish Metalworkers' Training Centre. This seminar was addressed mainly to 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](#)

EU news

Europe keeps conditional 30% emission target

The EU remains committed to increase its emission reduction target to 30% by 2020 if other industrialised countries made comparable efforts, according to a compromise agreement reached by member state representatives in Brussels on 20th January 2010. The agreement, which will be submitted in a letter to the UN, is expected to be approved by EU governments before the 31st January deadline for registering countries' emission reduction targets and other commitments to tackle climate change. [Read more](#)

EU States split on 30% CO2 cuts

European Union member states are divided over the bloc's pledge to raise its CO2 commitment up to a 30 percent cut by 2020 in the wake of the Copenhagen UN climate summit debacle. Environment ministers from across the bloc over the weekend met in Seville, Spain, to assess the reasons for the failure in the Danish capital in December and to map out the EU's next moves. As part of the so-called Copenhagen Accord cobbled together by the US, China, South Africa, Brazil and India outside the UN process, the 30-odd signatories to the document are to submit their greenhouse gas reduction pledges

by the end of January. [Read more](#)

France: combating energy insecurity will cost nearly 4 billion euros

Some 3.9 billion euros should be invested over a 10-year period in France - of which 1.7 billion directly by the State - to combat energy insecurity, recommends a report commissioned by the State Secretary for Climate Negotiations, Valérie Létard. In France, 3.4 million households are believed to be affected by energy insecurity, a phenomenon resulting from "low income, the poor thermal quality of housing and difficulty paying energy bills", states the report.

[Read more](#)

The environmental challenges of the Spanish EU Presidency

Addressing Spain's parliament on 16 December 2009, Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, whose country took up the European Union (EU) Presidency on 1 January 2010, presented the broad outlines of his programme. In the environmental sphere, Spain simply announced its intention of taking advantage of the transition to a low-carbon economy to create new jobs and additional sources of economic growth. *"We will encourage different industrial and technological initiatives to consolidate Europe's leadership as a green economy"*, explained José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. [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. The parliament welcomed Mr Potocnik's focus on green growth in the context of a post-Lisbon strategy. The Slovenian 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](#)

EU may seek new routes to global climate deal

The EU will need to seriously rethink its position on global climate action over the next months if other emitters prefer different approaches, a senior European Commission official said on 12 January at a European Parliament briefing on the Copenhagen summit. Jos Delbeke indicated the EU may drop its demands for keeping the Kyoto protocol and adopting a legally binding treaty if it finds itself isolated among major emitters. Europe has been criticised for playing only a marginal role in the last hours of December's climate summit. [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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