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EDITORIAL

European trade union position on financing policies for tackling climate change

Anne Panneels, ETUC Advisor

In spite of the potential offered by low-carbon technologies, and although China and the United States, in particular, have invested massively in these technologies, not enough is being done to promote their use in Europe. Europe must urgently develop a strategy to ensure that innovation in clean technologies takes place on this continent too.

[Read more](#)

ETUI activities

New ETUI study on 'Social partners and climate change'

After a recent call for tender by the ETUI, a study intended to boost its pool of evidence on social partner initiatives on climate change has been commissioned from Fundación 1° de Mayo. The purpose of the research is to achieve a better understanding of how social partners interact on climate change, as well as a clearer perception of the "green jobs" concept and how it comes into the social dialogue. The final report, expected by mid-December 2010, will also contain a literature review on green jobs and employment covering EU27, as well as five case studies.

Trade union activities

ETUC brochure: 'Climate change, industrial policies and ways out of the crisis'

At the press conference held on 15 June in Brussels, the ETUC launched a new brochure which summarizes the results of the study '[Climate disturbances, new industrial policies and ways out of the crisis](#)'. It also contains an analysis drawn up by the ETUC following the failure of the Copenhagen negotiations and the ETUC Position on the same issue. You can find [here](#) the brochure in English, German and Polish.

ETUC: 'Existing EU financial instruments are currently insufficient'

The ETUC Executive Committee, at its meeting in Brussels on 1 and 2 June 2010, adopted a [Position on the financing and management of climate policies](#). The Position highlights that, in order to tackle climate change and achieve green growth, the EU should use new and innovative sources of financing, raise the share of renewable energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. It also states that a CO₂ tax should be introduced globally in the interest of fiscal and social justice.

New pathways for worker representation in the European wind energy sector

The whole renewable energy sector is a growing area of concern for the European metalworkers' unions. In this context the European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF) has published a preparatory study for the project 'Stronger worker representation in the European wind energy sector'. Its main ambition is to further stimulate support for the local and European works councils and workers' representatives in the businesses in the wind energy sector.

All information on the EMF wind energy project is available [here](#).

You can download the study in English, French, German and Danish [here](#).

Trade union experiences for action on climate change

Trade unions are asking governments to commit to lower emissions, to adequately finance climate change adaptation strategies, and to develop new opportunities for green workplaces and occupations. These demands are illustrated in the video 'Time to tackle climate change' recently launched by Sustainlabour and produced jointly with the ITUC.

Watch [here](#) the 20-minute video (available in English, Spanish and French).

UNI Europa towards a social dimension on ICT

Europa ICTS, in cooperation with MEPs Britta Thomsen and Catherine Trautmann, organized

on 9 June the conference 'Giving Green ICT a social dimension' at the European Parliament. The ETUI, which was present together with other representatives of different organizations, pointed out the need to review the working conditions of the ICTs primarily within the manufacturing process where a hidden environmental burden is sometimes present.

[Read more](#)

EU news

Flexicurity and the greening of all jobs: priorities for the Belgian presidency

In the context of a move to a low-carbon economy, the Council will adopt conclusions for *Greening of all jobs*, green skills and training. It will also develop better job security through the concept of *making transition pay*, by ensuring that transition of workers on the employment market will benefit both the employee and the economy as a whole.

You can find [here](#) the Programme of the Belgian Presidency of the EU Council.

EU legislation is inadequate to deliver sustainable resource use

According to a new study commissioned by the European Commission's Environment DG there currently exist a number of impressive policy initiatives or *best practices* adopted by Member States on the sustainable use of natural resources.

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EU faces a debate on implementing carbon tax

The EU taxation Commissioner Algirdas Semeta will start introducing thoughts of a European carbon tax. Nordic countries support the proposal since they already apply carbon taxes devised along similar lines, while the UK and Ireland do not support the idea. In order to become law, the proposal would have to gain the support of all member states, as taxation policy is subject to unanimity voting.

[Read more](#)

Conservation of biodiversity, a clear strategic answer to achieve sustainability

A resource-efficient society entailing a review of biodiversity in the context of the efforts to tackle climate change was a key message resulting from the events of the 2010 edition of the Green Week, the annual conference held in order to focus on European environmental policy. 'Biodiversity - our lifeline' was the headline of the conference that took place at the European Commission in Brussels from 1 to 4 June. It coincided with the United Nations' decision to designate 2010 International Biodiversity Year.

[Read more](#)

Other actors and documents

Final KBF report on climate change mitigation and social justice in Europe: striking the right balance

The King Baudouin Foundation, with the support of the Oak Foundation, has carried out a six-month project involving EU stakeholders in order to discuss the fragile balance between climate change mitigation and social justice in Europe and to develop some recommendations. The aim of the project, which started in November 2009, is to support climate change mitigation while ensuring a smooth and socially just transition to a low-carbon economy and society.

[Read more](#)

Download the whole report [here](#).

European Commission: International climate policy post-Copenhagen: acting now to reinvigorate global action on climate change

Download [here](#) the Communication from the European Commission.

Events

The Belgian Presidency is organizing a ministerial conference 'Promoting green employment: a major and indispensable driver behind a successful transition towards a competitive low-carbon economy'. The gathering will be held on 28-29 September 2010 in La Hulpe (Brussels). While acknowledging the numerous contributions on this subject made by international institutions, the conference will also pay specific attention to sectoral experiences, to employment policy instruments, to the role of the social partners and to the work of the Employment Committee.

[Read more](#)

For more information, please contact the editor [Aida Ponce](#) or the Communication Officer of ETUI [Mariya Nikolova](#). To subscribe or have your name removed from the mailing list, send an email to [Mariya Nikolova](#).

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