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Onderwerp: Just Transition newsletter October 2011

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.

etui.

October 2011

Editorial

Why Europe needs green taxation

Llorenç Serrano i Giménez, Environmental Secretary of CCOO, member of the Climate National Council,

To speak of green taxation during a period of fiscal consolidation means something very different from what it was years ago. Those of us who believe in the usefulness and importance of this concept have repeatedly stressed that the purpose of environmental taxation is to alter modes of production and consumption; that it is a matter, as such, essentially of boosting the revenue-raising power of governments but of promoting a change in production methods. [Read more](#)

ETUI activities

ETUI / WALQING Seminar: Work and Life Quality in New and Growing Jobs

The ETUI and the [WALQING - Work and Life Quality in New and Growing Jobs](#) project consortium (funded by the European Commission's 7th FP) organized a seminar on the impact that greening of the economy has on the quality of work in Europe. The seminar presented the inputs from the WALQING study in the construction and waste sectors. The speakers in the seminar Aida Ponce Del Castillo from the ETUI presented the health and safety challenges in the health of the so called 'green' jobs. [Read more](#)

Trade unions' activities

ITUC/GURN: A green economy that works for social progress

The Global Union Research Network (GURN) platform held its annual workshop on 24-25 October 2011 in Beijing. The focus was on the working conditions in green jobs in diverse sectors. Participants presented case studies of working conditions in China, Peru, South Africa and Spain. Other topics were environmental rights and collective bargaining on environmental issues, whereby initiatives involving social partners in Europe on climate and employment as well as green taxation were presented. You can find the papers' abstracts [here](#)

The ETUC Executive Committee (19-20 October 2011) adopted three resolutions concerning Rio+20, Durban COP17 and Energy Efficiency:

- **ETUC Resolution on Rio+20: Strengthening the social dimension of sustainable development**
The resolution demands the inclusion of Just Transition and Decent Work in any concluding text or agreement and the creation of a universal social protection floor to ensure this Just Transition. It also calls for the adoption of a global target of at least 50% increase in 'green and decent' jobs by 2015. [Read more](#)
- **ETUC resolution on EU position at Durban COP17**
Considering the very slow pace of international negotiations and attempts by certain governments to use a 'voluntary pledge' system, the ETUC finds it important to avoid a regulatory gap in international emission

commitments and urges to preserve the legally binding and top-down aspects that a 2nd commitment p
bring. [Read more](#)

**- ETUC resolution on Comments on the proposal for a Directive on Energy Efficiency CO
370 final of 22 June 2011**

The resolution contains the ETUC's priorities for the European Union's energy policy for 2020. ETUC es
worker engagement and participation in energy efficiency programmes are crucial for their success. To e
implementation, worker involvement through social dialogue in the formulation of policy and the develo
skills and education programmes is of paramount importance, as well as measures ensuring good workin
and health and security at work. [Read more](#)

ITUC: Global Youth movement calls for jobs in 'green' economy

On 27th September, at the opening of the Tunza International Conference for Children and Youth in Bandung
over 1,400 participants highlighted the need for job opportunities in a green economy. They also pointed out
green job initiatives and skill shortages as major constraints to employment growth and the transition to sust
development. [Read more](#)

RIO+20: NGO conference conclusions reflect labour demands

During the 64th Annual UN Department of Public Information (UN DPI) & Non-Governmental Organization
from 3rd to 5th September in Bonn, Germany, 1,300 representatives of NGOs discussed sustainable develop
possible outcomes of the upcoming Rio+20 Conference and volunteerism. The conference showed that NGOs
unions can jointly build up mobilisation towards Rio+20. [Read more](#)

Danish joint campaign to reduce particle pollution in Copenhagen Airport

The Project Clean Air is collaboration between the Kastrup Branch of the United Federation of Danish Worke
16 of the Danish Metalworkers Union & the Guards & Security Employees Trade Union. This formal collabora
to reducing particle pollution at Copenhagen Airport in Kastrup. A Working Group has been established with
representatives from the three trade unions which will be the focal point of the campaign. There is already col
with Copenhagen Airport and large companies in the airport, to implement initiatives for reducing particle po
[Read more](#)

European union news

EC Roadmap to a Resource Efficiency Europe

The Commission's [Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe](#), adopted on 20 September, suggests introducing
efficiency indicators and targets across the 27-nation bloc but does not talk about legally-binding targets for r
potentially most controversial plank of the Commission proposal is to shift taxation from labour to resource u
[more](#)

Source: Euractiv

'Green economy is about fundamental change in business models'

On the 15-16 September, the European Environmental and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEA
annual conference 2011 in Wroclaw, Poland. The EEAC remarks that the green economy opens great chances
opportunities for new and decent jobs, for long term investments and approaches to put the people in the mic
economy. EEAC network asks the EU to renew, refocus and foster its Sustainable Development Strategy, and
Commission to make good use of the practise examples that can be found as annex to the statement. [Read m](#)

New Danish government target is to reduce carbon by 40%

Helle Thorning-Schmidt who was appointed Prime Minister of Denmark on 3 October 2011 announced an an
environment policy programme, with targets to reduce carbon by 40% and generate half of electricity from wi
2020.

Source: ENDS Europe DAILY (03/10/11)

New interactive Forum in Germany to contribute to debate on new growth mo

A special commission in the German parliament which should investigate the question of how to change our €
model in a more sustainable and equitable fashion was set up in January this year. To support members of th

commission, the three German foundations close to the trade unions - Friedrich Ebert, Otto Brenner and the Foundations - have mobilized about eighty experts to bring in ideas and research into the process. The work called the Fortschrittsforum can be followed on the [website](#) and everybody (who speaks German) is invited to

Events

[Sustainable-lifestyles 2050: Visions and Policy Actions](#)

10 November 2011, Brussels, Belgium

[Bonn 2011 Conference: The Water, Energy, and Food Security Nexus: solutions for the Economy](#)

International Institute for Sustainable Development
16-18 November 2011, Bonn, Germany

[International Conference Forests 2011](#)

23-24 November 2011, Leuven, Belgium

[Durban Climate Change Conference](#)

28 November - 9 December 2011, Durban, South Africa

[L'analyse du développement durable et l'application de techniques de l'économie environnementale à des problématiques régionales](#)

IWEPS 7 December 2011, Namur, Belgium

Other actors and documents

[Economie du développement soutenable](#)

Débats et politiques 120, OFCE

[3E Intelligence News and analysis on EU and global economy-energy environment p](#)

Willy De Backer

[Climate change, ill health, and conflict](#)

BMJ Editorial

[Climate change and migration dynamic](#)

by Kathleen Newland, September 2011

[World in Transition – A Social Contract for Sustainability](#)

German Advisory Council for Global change, Flagship Report 2011

*For more information, please contact the editor [Aida Ponce](#). For further information, please visit the [webpage](#) *Transition*.*

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