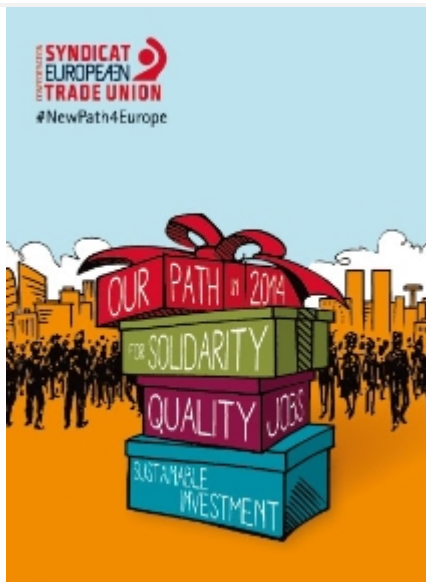


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**Aan:** Veerle Solia  
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## Trade union news



### Crisis cannot be solved without sound social basis



#### ETUC announces European demonstration for 4 April

As EU leaders are gathering in Brussels for their end of year summit, they continue to undermine the European project by prolonging the financial and social crisis and alienating millions of people across the union. Speaking ahead of the EU summit, Bernadette Ségol, announced that a European trade union demonstration will take place in Brussels on 4 April 2014, as the European Parliament prepares to elect new members. This demonstration will be organised in the framework "A New path for Europe campaign" recently

launched by the ETUC, outlining a bold new investment plan for the EU. The ETUC manifesto for the European Parliament elections, which urges candidates uphold the social dimension of the EU, is another key element of the campaign.

- A new path for Europe: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11715>
- Manifesto on the EU Parliament Elections: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11820>

## Posting of workers

### Statement on the EPSCO Council compromise on enforcement measures

For the ETUC, an essential element is to enshrine in legislation the right of member states to put in place whatever control measures they deem necessary to protect workers' rights to fair and equal conditions. Unfortunately the agreement reached in the council does not set this key principle with the necessary legal clarity. Bernadette Ségol said: *"Despite efforts made by some governments to meet our demands and move towards a more social Europe, this compromise text does not meet our expectations. In the upcoming negotiations ETUC will look to the European Parliament to clear ambiguities"*.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11821>

### Trade unions express 'grave concerns' over EU-US trade agreement

Proposals by the US on medicines and medical equipment in two new global trade deals could threaten national health systems, international trade unions are warning. In a letter addressed to the European Trade Commissioner, Karel De Gucht, and the US Trade Representative, Michael Froman, the ETUC, the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) have written to express their concerns that US proposals in the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) will *"needlessly burden national health systems and increase the cost borne by patients."*

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11876>

### International migrants' day: ETUC calls on a human rights approach to EU policy

On the occasion of international migrants' day (18 December), the ETUC called on the European Commission and member states to change its selective and circular migration policy towards one based on human rights, equal treatment and the full integration of third country nationals. *"ETUC pledges to continue fighting for migrant workers' rights, to increase the trade union membership of migrants and their participation in trade union life and decision-making,"* said Luca Visentini, ETUC Confederal Secretary.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11843>

### **EU guidelines on restructuring let down millions of workers**

#### **ETUC condemns 'wishful thinking' by commission**

The European Commission has recently issued its proposals for best practices for reducing the social impact of restructuring, which offers guidelines for stakeholder on how best to minimise the effect of restructuring. For the ETUC, European Commission plans aimed at curbing the impact of company restructuring on workers are not sufficient. Reacting to commission's announcement, the ETUC said "*We have had enough evaluations of best practices – it's time for political action*". This quality framework can only strengthen frustration and deception amongst the workers of Europe which experience restructurings not as an exception but as part of their daily life.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11836>

### **Ukraine**

#### **The ETUC Executive Committee condemns the violent repression of demonstrators**

The ETC Executive Committee which met in brussels on 3 and 4 December condemned the violent repression of demonstrators in Kiev. They also expressed regret that the conditions were not right for the partnership agreement with the EU to be concluded in Vilnius on 29 November 2013. They called for an inclusive dialogue to be established that would allow the Ukrainian people to decide on their future free from outside interference.

Executive Committee declaration: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11800>

### **ETUC demands urgent action to tackle gender pay gap**

Discrimination on grounds of gender still exists in the EU, despite laws prohibiting any such inequality. The European Commission must step-up its efforts to ensure equal pay for both women and men, according to the ETUC. According to a recent report by the European Commission, the pay gap between women and men in the European Union continues to remain. ETUC express its disappointment at the lack of ambition from the commission, and its unwillingness to undertake concrete measures to fight the gender pay gap.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11877>

### **ETUC expresses sadness at the death of Nelson Mandela**

In a [letter to Sdumo Dlamini](#), President of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), Bernadette Ségol expressed on behalf of European workers deep sympathy and condolences with the people of South Africa, following the death of Nelson Mandela.

More information: <http://www.etuc.org/a/11813>



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