

Social Europe and the EU elections

This month, the European Union is facing crucial elections, the outcome of which might change the prospects for a renewal of Social Europe after five years of failed EU crisis management and blind austerity. The ETUI recently published its own evaluation of the impact of this crisis management on employment, social dialogue, collective bargaining and the green transition in the 2014 edition of its Benchmarking Working Europe report. On 25 April, ETUI researchers discussed, in a special 'Monthly Forum', the main findings reported in this publication with colleagues from Bruegel and CEPs, as well as representatives of the European Commission.

On 29 April the ETUI began a new conference cycle entitled 'The social-ecological transition' with a stimulating presentation by Fatih Birol, Chief Economist of the International Energy Agency, on Europe's energy challenge and its social impacts. On the 27 May, the ETUI will present a new summary report on the employment aspects of this challenge in the new IPCC reports on climate change and will organize a Monthly Forum on this topic.

The Education department has put in place a new participatory process to prepare the training programme for 2015-16. The department also intends to improve and step up its training courses for European Works Councils.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

Publications

HesaMag - Waste and recycling: workers at risk



The latest issue of ETUI's *HesaMag* focuses on working conditions in the waste and recycling industries in Europe. The Commission wants Europe to become, by 2020, a 'recycling society' - one that reduces and uses waste as a resource. The idea is that this 'circular economy' will better protect the environment and will create new jobs. But will these jobs be inherently 'sustainable'?

It is here suggested that they may not. From collection to recycling, waste workers face many risks. They have more work accidents than builders. Musculoskeletal disorders are taking a toll and modernisation of sorting facilities generally speeds up work paces. Workers are exposed to noise, extreme temperatures, dust and toxic products.

[Read more](#)

Preventing work cancers. A workplace health priority

Cancers are the main cause of death resulting from poor working conditions in Europe. Yet they have received scant attention from Community policies during the past decade. The political context is against effective prevention of long-term factors that do not put a direct cost on business. This new guide shows how the fight against occupational cancers can be won if trade unions and public authorities adopt coherent strategies. It takes a serious look at the history and causes of work-induced cancers and provides tools for collective prevention. It is aimed at trade unionists, scientists,

Events

Conference The social-ecological transition: the role of business and labour, Brussels 23 May



In this second conference in a new ETUI cycle on 'the socio-ecological transition', economist and author Pavan Sukhdev will explain his vision of a new type of corporation which cares about its influence on society and communities, measures its impact on nature and on workers and social capital, and is open and transparent to all stakeholders.

[Read more](#)

Goodcorp Network meeting, Berlin, 22-23 May

The upcoming meeting of the [GoodCorp Network](#), to be held on 22-23 May in Berlin, will discuss the draft final report on workers' rights under the Takeover Bid Directive, and will launch a new study on workers' rights in the Cross-Border Mergers Directive. Further sessions will identify key company law issues on the agenda of the incoming EU Commission. Specific discussions are planned on the single-member company (SUP), letter-box companies, and the revision of the OECD Principles of corporate governance.

[Save the dates](#)

public health practitioners and policy-makers.

Author: Marie-Anne Mengeot

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Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research

The May issue of our quarterly journal *Transfer* has just appeared. The theme of this second issue for 2014 is 'Multinational companies: political, economic and social influence in societies'.

[Read more](#)

Collective Bargaining newsletter

The ETUI's Collective Bargaining monthly newsletter presents up-to-date information on collective bargaining developments across Europe. It aims to facilitate information exchange among trade unions and to support the work of the ETUC's collective bargaining committee.

[Read more](#)

Training

Training department to step up its training for European Works Councils

The Institute has strengthened its education team responsible for the training devised specifically for European Works Councils. The additional human resources will enable better coordination with the European Trade Union Federations, as well as strengthening and deepening the contacts with companies, and enhanced pedagogical supervision.

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New participatory process for training programme 2015-16

The Education department has started preparations for the training programme for 2015-16. A letter of invitation to submit proposals will be sent out in May, with a deadline of mid-June. The programme will then be devised on the basis of the proposals received from our member organisations. Proposals are based on training needs that have been identified; priority for inclusion in the programme will be given to needs identified by trade union confederations. Education officers also contribute to the programme based on their knowledge and practices.

Once the process is complete, the resulting draft programme will be discussed by the Pedagogical Committee; after approval by this Committee, it will be presented and debated at the annual European union Training Conference (EduConf) in Sofia in October.

Madrid: EU elections and training

On 24-25 April Marie Carai of the education department

- 27 May: Monthly Forum on **IPCC report on climate change: the impacts on employment**.
 - 5-7 June, New York: **Transatlantic Social Dialogue**, 12th annual meeting
 - 19 June: **Monthly Forum on unions and active labour market policy**.
 - 24-26 September: conference **'Europe at a crossroads. Which way to quality jobs and prosperity?'**
 - 22-24 October, Sofia: **EduDay and EduConf**.
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Recent events

29 April: conference - Fatih Birol (IEA): Europe's energy transition: between sustainability and affordability



At this first conference in a new ETUI cycle on 'the socio-ecological transition', Mr Birol, chief economist at the International Energy Agency delivered a thorough analysis of the environmental and economic dimension of Europe's energy revolution.

Read our [news of the conference](#) and see the full presentation given by Dr. Birol, as well as reactions from trade union and NGO representatives.

[Read more](#)

25 April: Monthly Forum on Benchmarking Working Europe 2014

The ETUI Monthly Forum on 25 April looked at the performance of EU crisis-management policies as analysed in its recently published report *Benchmarking Working Europe 2014*. The debate focussed on both economic and social aspects of crisis policies over the last five years.

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24 April: TTUR meeting

At its meeting held on 24.4.2014, the [Transnational Trade Union Rights \(TTUR\)](#) network launched a discussion to prepare a publication on the impact of the Council of Europe's (Revised) European Social Charter on the employment relationship. This volume will be the third in an ambitious series which has so far covered the Lisbon Treaty and Social Europe (2012), and the European Convention on Human Rights and the employment relationship (2013). The new volume on the European Social Charter is expected to be published in 2015.

In the media

On 21-23 April, Maria Garcia, of the education department presented the ETUI work on austerity and gender in Madrid to members of the PSOE and the Asociación con la A. This event was part of an information campaign to mobilise citizens for the forthcoming 2014 elections. The ETUI presented its video on austerity, the ETUC's ideas on the new path for Europe, Benchmarking Working Europe and studies on gender equality and job quality.

In the media

- The ETUC/ETUI book on 40 years of the European Trade Union Confederation was very favourably reviewed in Agence Europe of 23 April.
- Researcher Kurt Vandaele was interviewed and quoted by Flemish journal *De Tijd* in an article on Belgian strike activity.
- Researcher Aline Conchon was interviewed by Planet Labour on 'EU: what room for employee participation on supervisory and executive boards?'

[Read more](#)

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