

Editorial



During the 13th European Trade Union Confederation Congress this autumn in Paris, trade union leaders called for an ambitious deal at the upcoming UN climate summit (COP21). In a [recent essay](#) Eloi Laurent and myself argue that the necessary transition of our economies and societies to a condition of sustainability can only be achieved when there is clarity about the nature of the social changes that need to be introduced. We believe that the ecological transition must, if it is to become a social reality, incorporate a combination of both knowledge and belief. This common positive narrative of the ecological transition cannot be constructed exclusively upon the imperative of economic efficiency but must also be driven by the principle of social justice.

The transition must be fair; it must offer stability, and it must promise protection. Equality, employment and social protection are the three pillars of the edifice required to produce a social-ecological transition.

Another [recent ETUI publication](#) edited by Béla Galgóczi contributes to this debate by pointing out that ambitious climate and energy policy targets should be regarded not as a burden on the economy but rather as investment targets able to pave the way to higher employment and sustainable growth. Earlier the ETUI has also co-published jointly with the European Climate Foundation [a summary of the Fifth Assessment Report](#) synthesising the most pertinent findings of this report for workers and employment.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

Publications

The 'variable geometry' approach to 'better legislation'



This Policy Brief takes the measure of the EU Commission's 'better legislation' programme, attempting not only to identify its general thrust but also to reveal its inner contradictions. *Also available in French.*

Author: Éric Van den Abeele

[Read more](#)

The country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the social field. An overview and comparison. Update including the CSRs 2015-2016

As part of the European Semester, the main pillar of Europe's new economic governance, the Commission puts forward every year the 'country-specific recommendations' (CSRs). This background analysis provides an overview of specific recommendations to the EU Member States in the field of employment and

Focus

Trade unions and industrial relations

All you ever wanted to know about trade unions and industrial relations in the EU member states can be found on our [National Industrial Relations database pages](#) on the worker-participation.eu website. The ['map of national industrial relations'](#) provides you with a first insight into the countries' main differences of their national systems of industrial relations. By pointing over the countries, a small fact box is displayed. Clicking will bring you to the detailed page for this country. Besides the [separate country profiles](#) and the [summary across countries](#), a special tool allows you to compare countries, for example with regard to their national systems of trade unions, collective bargaining and workplace representation.

Events

Save the dates

- 17 November: Book Launch - [Hard work in new jobs. The quality of work and life in European growth sectors.](#)
- 19-20 November: [EDUDAYS 2015 – Re-connecting workers with the EU project – confronting populism and extremism](#), Berlin.
- 23 November: Monthly Forum - [The long and winding road from black to green – decades of structural change in the Ruhr region](#), Brussels.
- 25-26 November: ETUI/NERI Policy Workshop - [Fixing Europe's Public Debt](#), Dublin.
- 25-26 November: EWPC Conference - [Building Bridges: combining information, consultation and board-level employee representation in European multinationals.](#)

social policies.

- 7 January 2016: SAVE THE DATE - Wage bargaining under the new European Economic Governance.



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Author: Stefan Clauwaert

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New issue of *SEER*: Economic development and quality of life in the western Balkans



The first issue of *SEER Journal for Labour and Social Affairs in Eastern Europe* for 2015 contains a block of articles focusing on the broad theme of economic development and quality of life from different angles, taking a look at various countries of the region in a comparative way, examining also the important factors in economic development, including education, leadership and the business environment.

[Read more](#)

New issue of *Transfer* on key challenges for the trade union movement



The November issue of *Transfer*, the Research Quarterly of the ETUI's Research Department, contains four articles that all deal with challenges and dilemmas that are at the core of the academic debate on trade unions as well as at the heart of the debate within the trade union movement.

[Read more](#)

HesaMag – the archive is now downloadable in electronic version

The whole HesaMag archive – since 2009 – is now downloadable in PDF from the ETUI website. [To download](#)

Collective Bargaining developments October 2015

[Download the newsletter](#) and/or subscribe to receive the next one in your mailbox (mnikolova@etui.org).

Recent events

Towards a desirable and feasible European unemployment benefit scheme

During the last ETUI Monthly Forum, Ilaria Maselli, Research Fellow at CEPS, and Frank Vandebroucke, of the Catholic University of Leuven, discussed the added value of a European unemployment benefit scheme. They presented a preliminary assessment of a research project funded by the European Commission which studies the feasibility and desirability of establishing a European unemployment benefit scheme (EUBS).

[Read more](#)

Rana Plaza: safety undermined by lack of workplace democracy

Rana Plaza and its 1 100 plus victims, mainly women, are still in everyone's minds. The horror generated by the tragedy has forced the garment industry giants to make commitments to safety in the textile factories of Bangladesh. The results of research into their impact were revealed for the first time on 15 October during an ETUI Monthly Forum.

[Read more](#)

ETUI organises seminar on the role of trade unions in China

On 14th of October, the ETUI in collaboration with the Institute for European Studies of the University Saint-Louis Brussels organised a seminar on the Chinese economic transformations and labour: The new roles of trade unions.

[Read more](#)

What effects of employment protection reforms on employment?

On 14-15 October 2015, ETUI researchers Agnieszka Piasna and Martin Myant organised a workshop kick-starting a new ETUI book on the effects of employment protection reforms on employment across the EU. The aim of the event, which took place at the ITUH, was to present and discuss recent changes in employment regulation and their consequences for workers and labour markets.

Other activities

- On 26 October, Laurent Vogel gave a presentation on the labour inspection situation in various European countries and on the European trade union strategy in occupational health during a series of activities organised in Geneva. French-speaking Swiss trade unionists sought the assistance of the ETUI with regard to a new law that has been prepared creating a Joint Labour Inspectorate (Inspection paritaire de l'emploi – IPE). [Read more \(in French\)](#)
- ETUI researcher Aline Conchon was awarded the [2015](#)

Training

Organising young workers

The new edition of the "European training for young trade union leaders" started in Rome on 19-23 October 2015. The course consists of three weeks (the 2nd in February and the 3rd in June 2016) and two intermediate periods. There are 25 participants (15 women, 10 men) from 13 Countries and 17 Organizations. This year the two national partners are the Italian CGIL and the Bulgarian CITUB. The young trade unionists attending the training, accredited with the support of the British TUC, actively participated in the 5 days of intensive course including a study visit at CGIL headquarters.

In the media

- ["The minimum wage: A motor for growth or a brake on the economy?"](#), European Parliamentary Research Service, Briefing September 2015.
 - [Comités d'entreprises européens : le point](#), FGTB newsletter (FR/DUTCH), October 2015.
 - [BOHS backs call for global collaboration to eliminate occupational cancer](#), BOHS, on the ETUI working paper entitled *Eliminating Occupational Cancer in Europe and Globally*, 13.10.2015
 - [The State of play on the eve of the EWS's 20th anniversary](#) on the ETUI publication *European Works Councils and SE Works Councils in 2015. Facts and figures*, 13.10.2015.
 - [Cancer 'becoming biggest workplace killer'](#), on the ETUI working paper entitled *Eliminating Occupational Cancer in Europe and Globally*, 14.10.2015.
 - [Adult learn by sharing knowledge and experiences](#), interview with ETUI trainer Gabriela Portela (in Finnish), 15.10.2015.
 - [Involving worker in key business decisions? The European way](#), Aline Conchon post on TUC blog Touchstone, 15.10.2015.
 - ["Il n'y a jamais eu aussi peu de jour de grève en France" ?](#), ETUI data on strikes on France info, 16.10.2015.
 - [Dialogue social : comment font nos voisins ?](#), ETUI data on strikes in *Le Figaro*, 18.10.2015.
 - [ETUI assesses the implementation of the EWC Recast Directive](#), on the website of the Presence group, 20.10.2015.
 - [Modernisering stakingsrecht krijgt lauw onthaal](#), ETUI data on strikes in *De Standaard*, 26.10.2015.
 - [Als de vakbonden hun duivels ontbinden](#), ETUI data on strikes in *De Standaard*, 26.10.2015.
 - ['Een vertrouwensprobleem? Totaal niet'](#), ETUI data on strikes in *De Standaard*, 27.10.2015.
 - [L'inspection paritaire des entreprises sera unique en Europe](#), *Tribune de Genève*, interview with ETUI Senior researcher Laurent Vogel, 3.11.2015.
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[Grand Prix of corporate governance research distributed every year by the French Institute of Directors](#), in recognition of her PhD dissertation on board-level employee representation in France.

- Philippe Pochet participated in two conferences in Madrid, one organised by the Fundacion Francisco Largo Caballero on 12 November, and another one organised by the [Fundación 1 de Mayo de CCOO on 23 October](#) on the effects of the austerity policies on employment and social cohesion and future challenges. He also gave a talk on the labour market in Europe at a CGIL conference in Rome on 27 October
 - Maria Jepsen, the Director of the ETUI Research department, participated in a conference co-organised by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Olaf Palme International Center on Shaping the Social Dimension of Regional Integration (SOCDEM) in Bangkok on 5-7 November. She also participated in a discussion on the future of welfare models in Europe as part of the FEPS, RI and CEVEA seminar [Setting An Ambition for the Next Social Europe](#) in Copenhagen on 19th October 2015
 - Agnieszka Piasna, ETUI researcher, participated in the 2015 Jobs Conference 'Technology, skills and inequalities', which took place in Warsaw on 27-28 October 2015 and was organised by the Institute for Structural Research. Agnieszka presented recent findings about nonstandard work, inequalities and employment regulation in the EU.
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The ETUI is financially supported by the European Union.
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