

## Will the EU continue on its austerity path or has the Greek deal opened up new opportunities?

Although the Juncker Commission has incorporated into its programme some new features such as Europe's strategic investment plan, the EU leaders' negotiations with the Greek government could be the litmus test for ascertaining whether the EU is genuinely prepared to embark upon a new path towards growth and prosperity.

Contrary to these leaders' claims that austerity is the only valid option, a number of the world's top economists have devised other ways of tackling Europe's debt crisis. In order to provide a forum for expression and dissemination of these alternative views and analyses of the current situation, we have joined forces with the European Trade Union Confederation and the European Trade Union Federations to organise an open debate at which renowned economists James Galbraith, Raymond Torres, Heiner Flassbeck and Benjamin Coriat will challenge the conviction that austerity measures can put Europe back on a path to sustainable growth.

On a closely related subject, Martin Myant, in a new ETUI Policy Brief, analyses the recently launched EU strategic investment plan and points to numerous shortcomings. Yet what appears certain is that this plan will be implemented alongside the austerity policies that are themselves a major reason for the chronically low levels of development.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

## Publications

### The European sectoral social dialogue: an uneven record of achievement?



While the European intersectoral social dialogue has been, according to the Commission's own admission, dragging its feet for the last few years on account of a lack of commitment on the part of the private sector employers, the sectoral social dialogue is often presented as a more dynamic and successful venture. A dialogue along sectoral lines has been set in motion by employer and labour organisations from a current total of 43 economic sectors of the European economy – from metalworking through road transport to public services and many others.

Author: Christophe Degryse

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## Focus

### 20 March - Europe's dilemma: austerity revisited or a new path to sustainable growth, Brussels

The European Trade Union Institute, in collaboration with the European Trade Union Confederation and the European Trade Union Federations, is pleased to invite you to a high-level conference on alternatives to the current management of the Euro crisis. At this special conference, renowned economists Professor James Galbraith (University of Texas at Austin), Raymond Torres (Director of Research at the ILO), Heiner Flassbeck (former German State Secretary and Director of Flassbeck-Economics), and Benjamin Coriat (Université Paris 13), will provide their analyses of Europe's protracted crisis and put forward alternative ways of reshaping Europe's economy for sustainable growth, investment, jobs and equitable prosperity.

[Read more about the event](#) and [register](#).

## Events

### Save the dates

- 13 March: Monthly Forum - [The rise and fall of EU](#)

[gender equality: from emergence to dismantling](#), Brussels.

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## The art of preventive health and safety in Europe



This book stemming from the exhibition 'The art of preventive health and safety in Europe' presents historical and vintage posters from various European countries showing how graphic design has been used to promote health and safety prevention in more than 20 different cultural environments.

Edited by Alfredo Menéndez-Navarro

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## Juncker's investment plan: a start, but we need more



This Policy Brief analyses the recently launched EU plan for strategic investment and points to several shortcomings that will significantly limit its positive effects. The plan's funding mechanism offers considerably less than is needed; its governance mechanisms will lead to a bias that will favour countries least in need of its encouragement; and the plan will be implemented alongside the austerity policies that are a major reason for the chronically low levels of development.

Author: Martin Myant

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## Electromagnetic fields in working life. A guide to risk assessment

This guide is aimed at employers, trade union representatives and, of

- 20 March: [Benchmarking working Europe 2015 launch](#)
  - 20 March: [Europe's dilemma: austerity revisited or a new path to sustainable growth](#), Brussels.
  - 31 March: Lunch debate - [The Nordic Model towards 2030. A new chapter?](#), Brussels.
  - 16-17 April: [SAVE THE DATE European Panel](#), Brussels.
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## Recent events

### Women's health and work: the quest for visibility

The conference on women's health and work, organised by the ETUI from 4 to 6 March in Brussels, showed that a situation of equal rights for men and women in the workplace is very far from having been achieved. A serious obstacle on the road to such equality is the invisibility of the specific risks to which working women are exposed and that stem frequently from work organisation methods. The deeply entrenched nature of sexual segregation on the labour market and of sexist stereotypes serves to reinforce the status quo.

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### Trade unions and corporate social responsibility: pragmatism wins out against mistrust

'Despite a very broad picture of scepticism, most unions are embedded in discussions in relation with CSR', declared Chris Rees, a researcher at the Royal Holloway University of London who has recently, with two colleagues from the same university, written a book on trade union attitudes and approaches to the concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR). The principal results of this research, conducted between 2011 and 2013 in eleven EU countries, were presented on 24 February last at an ETUI Monthly Forum.

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### Greece: Greek Labour Institute economist comments on the new government

Christos Triantafyllou, an economist at the Labour Institute of the General Confederation of Greek Workers (INE-GSEE), offered – at a lunchtime debate organised by the ETUI on 25 February – an analysis of the prospects opened up by the recent political changes in his country.



course, workers potentially exposed to electromagnetic fields. It is also designed as an aid to understanding the new EU Directive on occupational exposure to EMFs (2013/35 EU) that will come into force in 2016. The Guide presents an overview of occupational exposure to electromagnetic fields according to their frequency: static fields, low, intermediate and radio frequencies.

Authors: Kjell Hansson Mild and Monica Sandström

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## The new European economic governance

The Working Paper by ETUI researcher Christophe Degryse 'The new European economic governance' is now also available in German: **Die neue wirtschaftspolitische Governance der EU**. [To download the document](#)

## Training

### EWC training for the European Trade Union Federations (ETUFs)

The ETUI continues its training efforts for EWC members and coordinators on different levels. In the first quarter of 2015, company seminars have been organised for SAB Miller, Metro, SSP, Suez Environnement, Bekaert, Rio Tinto, H&M and Fresenius. During the same period two seminars were held in cooperation with European Trade Union Federations. The first took place in Ghent, Belgium, from 20 to 22 January, bringing together 22 industrial trade union coordinators of European Works Councils from Belgium, Finland, Sweden, Hungary, Germany and France.

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### Training on European trade unions action to defend labour and trade unions rights

Several trade unionists with responsibility for Labour Law and/or Social Dialogue issues reflected – at a training course organised by the ETUI Education department in partnership with TCO and STTK/TJS and held in Brussels on 27-29 January 2015 – on the risks relating to austerity, REFIT, TTIP,

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## EU intervention in national welfare state reforms

On 3 February 2015, the ETUI held a symposium to examine several instances of EU intervention in social protection reforms in member states severely affected by the sovereign debt crisis. The new institutional architecture developed since 2010 in an effort to remedy structural deficits and strengthen budgetary discipline (Six-Pack, Two-Pack and budgetary pact) has had a significant impact on social protection systems, said Caroline de la Porte, a researcher from the University of Roskilde (Denmark).

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## Making occupational illness visible: a call for a coalition between scientists and workers

Some forty trade unionists and researchers coming principally from Belgium, France, The Netherlands, Spain and Italy took part in a seminar organised jointly by the ETUI and the Belgian association Santé & Solidarité. The purpose of the event was to present projects entailing participation by both researchers and workers in the service of a common goal, namely, to make the impact of work on health visible.

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## Prague Symposium on Foreign Direct Investment

The high-level symposium 'Investment in Central and Eastern Europe: Past developments, structural changes, future expectations and new perspectives', organised together with the Government Office of the Czech Republic, showcased research conducted within the ETUI project that analyses foreign direct investment in selected eastern and southern European countries with a focus on post-crisis trends and sectoral patterns. ETUI research was discussed with Czech government officials and Czech social partners. The event was opened by Jan Mládek, Minister for Trade and introduced by Martin Tlapa, Deputy Minister for Economic Diplomacy. The speech by Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka was followed by remarks from Josef Středula, President of the Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions (ČMKOS). The research presented, together with selected positions from government and trade union representatives, will be published by ETUI in an edited volume.

TISA, CETA and on ways of defending labour and trade unions rights including the gender perspective.

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## Training in partnership with EUROCOP on psychosocial risks in the police force and trade union action

Police forces are exposed to specific work-related psychosocial risks in addition to all those that exist across the whole spectrum of occupations. Moreover, trade unions find it difficult to access data on the impact of these risks. Trade union representatives belonging to Eurocop gathered in Brussels on 10 and 11 February for an exchange on different national and European situations. They shared information about national preventive and reactive mechanisms and discussed the transposition of directive 89/391/CE into national legislation.

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## In the media

- AlterEco+: [Relancer un dialogue social européen en panne](#), Philippe Pochet, ETUI General director.
- Social Europe: [The Nordic Model is no longer a holy grail](#), Philippe Pochet, ETUI General director.
- FT.com: [Greece: in search of the perfect job market](#), referring to [Worker Participation.eu](#).
- *Examen critique de la politique européenne de prévention des cancers professionnels*, contribution by Laurent Vogel, ETUI senior researcher, to the joint publication of INRS [Construire en permanence la prévention des cancers professionnels](#)
- Social Europe: [Why the Greek government should aim to redefine 'structural reform'](#), Sotiria Theodoropoulou, ETUI researcher.
- [Revue de droit du travail](#) (1/2015): *Regards sur la réforme du droit du licenciement en Europe : genèse et impact d'une flexibilisation programmée et exacerbée par la crise (première partie)*, Isabelle Schömann, ETUI researcher.
- [Exposition aux champs électromagnétiques : publication d'un guide de prévention des risques](#) in *Journal de l'environnement*.
- Interview with Laurent Vogel in the [Danish Ugebreveta4](#).
- Philippe Pochet was interviewed by *El País* on the state

## Other activities

- ETUI General director Philippe Pochet, Research director Maria Jepsen and Senior researcher Stefan Clauwaert took part in the High Level Conference on Social Dialogue on 5 March, the first organised by the Juncker Commission at which the European Commission, employers and trade unions discussed the way forward for social dialogue in the aftermath of the crisis.
  - ETUI researcher Agnieszka Piasna spoke at the Progressive Economy Workshop on 'Decent Work: A Job at Any Cost?' held in the European Parliament on 24 February 2015. The discussion focussed, among other things, on how quality of work can be better addressed in the renewed Europe 2020 Strategy and its Integrated Guidelines. Agnieszka argued that what is needed to facilitate both evidence-based policy and monitoring of member states' performance is the integration of job quality indicators into the employment targets and guidelines. Putting job quality back on the EU policy agenda, giving it a higher profile and ensuring its application should be the policy priority for the new Commission.
  - ETUI researcher Christophe Degryse attended the session 'Transformations structurelles et gouvernance: quel modèle social pour demain' organized by CFDT-Interco on 5 March in Strasbourg (France).
  - ETUI researcher Christophe Degryse participated in the session entitled 'Nouvelle Commission européenne : quels espoirs pour une Europe sociale ?' organised by CIEP-MOC on 20 February in Tournai (Belgium).
  - ETUI researcher Christophe Degryse participated in the seminar ISST - CGT 'L'Europe et le rôle des syndicats' organised by ISST – Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne on 11 February in Bourg-La-Reine (France).
  - ETUI researcher Laurent Vogel will take part in the conference '[L'Europe et la santé-sécurité au travail : quels acquis ? quelles perspectives ?](#)' organised by EUROGIP on 19 March in Paris.
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of trade unions in Europe. He will write a short editorial for this newspaper.

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