

A new wind or old wine in new bags?

Since 1 November, the new European Commission led by Jean-Claude Juncker has started its five-year mandate. Will this new Commission be able to change course and revive the social dimension of the European project? Will it remain focused on harsh austerity policies or introduce real solutions for the scourge of high unemployment and anaemic growth?

The ETUI continues to monitor the new European institutions and provides evidence-based analysis and trainings to help understand Europe's huge social, economic and ecological challenges for the coming years. This month's newsletter includes some of the activities the institute has undertaken recently on labour market policies, worker participation, and the social and environmental dimensions of public procurement. Important debates on climate change and quality jobs will take place in the coming weeks and months which will demonstrate that there are real alternatives to the current policy direction of the EU.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

Publications

Integrating social and environmental dimensions in public procurement: one small step for the internal market, one giant leap for the EU?



This working paper provides a legal analysis of the inclusion of social and environmental clauses in the modernisation of the EU's public procurement directives. It focuses in particular on Directive 2014/24/EU and evaluates the measures and provisions dealing with the obligation to comply with social, environmental and labour laws.

It concludes that the co-legislators have managed to give contracting authorities and member states a lever to introduce more ethics in economic relations.

Author: Éric Van den Abeele

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Nordic labour market models in open markets

This report reviews the main

Focus

ETUI documentation centre

The documentation centre, the cornerstone of the ETUI's research activities, offers access to a unique set of documentary resources that expands daily. In its 35 years of existence, the centre has become an important source of information on the European and international trade union movement, economic and social issues, industrial relations and health and safety at work. More than 27,500 publications, including all those published by the ETUI, and around 147 specialised periodicals covering the ETUI's fields of research, can be consulted on site.

The documentation centre's [online catalogue](#), provides access to more than 60,000 bibliographical references and the complete texts of books, articles, reports, proceedings of colloquia and seminars, technical standards, audiovisual materials, etc. related to the world of work. A bimonthly New acquisitions bulletin with a selection of the most representative new materials is published on the [ETUI website](#).

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Events

ETUI Conference cycle - Socio-ecological transition: a new climate for the EU's sustainability transition, 21 November



common traits and variations of the Nordic models of labour market regulation, how they were adjusted after the crises in the 1980-90s, and how recent labour market developments have faced the actors with new challenges.

In this third conference of the ETUI's cycle on the 'socio-ecological transition', three European thought-leaders on sustainability will go into debate about the foundations for a bold social-ecological vision for Europe. Starting from a review of the latest findings of global climate scientists (5th report of the IPCC and the US 3rd National Climate Assessment), the three academics will provide the basis for ETUI to make the case for a new mobilizing project of EU renewal.

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Authors: Søren Kaj Andersen, Jon Erik Dølvik and Christian Lyhne Ibsen

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Implementation of enforcement provisions of the European Works Councils Recast Directive: are sanctions really 'effective, proportionate and dissuasive'?



This policy brief shows the importance of proper implementation of sanctions for the overall efficiency and implementation of the goals of the EWC Recast Directive. It formulates some concrete policy recommendations for the Commission's future implementation report on this Directive.

Author: Romuald Jagodzinski

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Publications 2011-2014 (Catalogue)



This catalogue presents all ETUI publications produced in the last four years, including some compiled by ETUI researchers but published elsewhere. During this period, these publications have dealt with a wide range of topics (economic and financial crisis, European governance, Europeanisation of industrial relations, and many more).

Recent events

Education Day and Education Conference: Strengthening worker participation through education – train 2 participate

The role of training in strengthening worker participation took centre stage at the ETUI's Education day and Education Conference (Sofia, 22-24 October). This coincided with renewed efforts of the ETUI to increase its training activities for European Works Councils (EWC) and SE Works Councils. The Education Day provided an opportunity to hear the views of the relevant actors related to EWCs – namely EWC members, national unions and their European trade union federations as well as the ETUC. During the Education Conference the ETUI explained its plans for expanding its EWC and SE works council training service. New training materials and pedagogical approaches for EWC and SE works council training were presented and "tested" in work group

Save the dates

- 20 November: ETUI Monthly Forum - [The quality of employment in developed and developing countries](#), Brussels.
- 21 November: ETUI Conference cycle - [The social-ecological transition: a new climate for the EU's sustainability transition](#), Brussels.
- 26 November: Book presentation - [Challenges, actors and practices of non-formal and informal learning and its validation in Europe](#), Brussels.
- 1-2 December: NEUJOBS Final Conference - [Green, pink and white: can Europe still create jobs?](#), Brussels.
- 11 December: Symposium - [Chinese investments in Europe: business strategies and labour impacts](#), Brussels.
- 11 December: EMIN European Conference- [Adequate minimum income building consensus](#), Brussels.

The readership for our work is very diverse. Trade unionists, social scientists and European policymakers use our publications to learn about the latest developments on social issues at EU level or to find scientific support for policy positions.

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Other activities

- On 29-30 October, Fabienne Scandella, senior researcher in the Working Conditions, Health and Safety Unit of the ETUI, attended the Joint Conference 'Driving Mental Health at Work in Europe: Learning from one another', organized by the European Commission, the German Federal Ministry of Health, the German Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the BKK Federal Association of Company Health Insurance Funds in Berlin. Fabienne who was speaker in the panel devoted to the social partners' perspectives on mental health policy reiterated the cornerstone principles of the Framework Directive on Health and Safety at Work focusing on collective prevention. She also expressed the concerns of the European trade union movement towards REFIT and the poor European Strategy on Health and Safety at work.
- Head of Unit Working conditions, health and safety Aida Ponce Del Castillo made a presentation at the 'ECOS Annual Workshop' in Brussels, during the panel 'Nanoscale: Is standardisation paving the way to regulatory developments?' Aida explained the challenges of physical-chemical characterization and measurement methods of nanomaterials, providing an example of its importance for human exposure at the workplace.
- During the Seminar of the Montenegrin Trade Union of Telecommunications 'Health and Safety at Work - harmonization of the national with European legislation, new law, comparative experiences', the ETUI was represented by Aida Ponce Del Castillo who presented the state of the art of the OSH legislation and provided the audience with the different modalities of safety reps. rights and duties in their different modalities including the results of the EPSARE project published in a ETUI report.
- The October issue of the Collective Bargaining newsletter came out in the beginning of the month. [The monthly Collective Bargaining newsletter](#) is compiled by a research team from the Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies (AIAS) in cooperation with the ETUI. The Newsletter presents up-to-date and easily accessible first-hand information on collective bargaining developments across Europe to practitioners, policy-makers and researchers. The alerts include links to the original stories.

activities with the help of the ETUI's network of EWC trainers.

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SEEurope goes to Croatia

The SEEurope Network, which focusses on workers' participation issues, met in Zagreb, Croatia on 27-28 October 2014. The meeting was joined by 10 Croatian guests, including representatives of the two largest trade union confederations and academic experts. In the wake of the Croatian accession to the EU, this meeting enabled an intensive exchange about current and future issues in Croatian and European industrial relations.

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Unions and psychosocial risks: findings of a project in four southern European countries

The findings of a project on psychosocial risks done in 12 firms in four Mediterranean countries (France, Italy, Spain and Turkey) were unveiled to a forty-strong audience in Brussels on 14 and 15 October. The scheme was coordinated by the Spanish trade union institute Iistas partnered by the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA). Entitled E-Impro, the initiative aimed at identifying specific barriers and drivers in participative psychosocial risk (PSR) prevention processes at company level to achieve a healthier work organization.

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New European Parliament: heading for a 'grand coalition' or a left-right divide?

The new European Commission ushered in on 1 November was brought into office with the support of a "grand coalition" of Socialist and centre-right MEPs in the European Parliament (EP). But having joined forces to back and rubber-stamp Jean-Claude Juncker and his team, will that "grand coalition" hold together or split into a classic left-right divide? This was the question asked by the ETUI at its monthly forum held on 29 October.

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In the media

- Le Monde diplomatique: [L'Europe condamnée par l'Europe.](#)

- The ETUI was invited to participate in a high-level policy conference 'Addressing Social Cohesion and Effects of Migrants' Integration in Europe and Asia' that took place on 3-4 November in Singapore. Senior researcher Bela Galgoczi contributed to this event with a presentation on co-operation between business and labour in managing change during the crisis in the EU. The conference fitted into a broader research co-operation 'Europe-Asia Dialogue' between various institutes, as the East Asia Institute at the University of Singapore, the EU Centre Singapore, the European Policy Centre, Brussels and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.
 - ETUI Director Philippe Pochet participated in a lunch-debate '[Does growth make us happy?](#)' organized by the Belgian Federal Council for Sustainable Development (FRDO) on 20 October. The starting point of the discussion was the recently published book by the Chief Economist of BNP-Paribas-Fortis Peter De Keyzer who is convinced that in a world without growth the progress of some is at the expense of others. Philippe Pochet opposed this 'trickle – down' economy principle and focused on the growing inequality in the Western world.
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- Social Europe Journal: [Structural reforms will not mitigate the risk of deflation in Europe.](#)
 - Radio Bulgaria: [Interview with Philippe Pochet, ETUI General Director.](#)
 - Atlantic Community.org: [TTIP: exaggerated benefits and shaky estimations.](#)
 - Santé et travail: [Pologne : un miracle en trompe-l'oeil.](#)
 - De Morgen: [Ontwaak, vakbond van de 21 eeuw.](#)
 - De Tijd: '[Staken is investeren in de toekomst](#)'.
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