

A new Commission for quality jobs and prosperity?

EU-watchers' interest throughout the summer was most intensely focused on the long-running saga of who the new Commissioners would be. Now that the new Juncker team has finally been presented, it is interesting to scrutinise [the mission letters](#) sent by the Commission President to the commissioners in charge of social and economic affairs. Three priorities mentioned in these letters could be used as a benchmark for assessing over time whether or not this new Commission develops more of a social profile than its predecessors Barroso I and II:

- presenting a **jobs, growth and investment package within the first three months** of the new mandate, mobilising up to 300 billion euros in public and private investments over the next three years;
- replacing, over time, the **'troika' with a more democratically legitimate and more accountable structure** and preparing social impact assessments of conditional support programmes;
- promoting **social dialogue and engaging with social partners**.

One priority clearly missing from the letter to the new Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility is the **new strategy for health and safety at work**.

To help the new EU leaders define their economic and social priorities for the next five years, the ETUC and the ETUI have planned a major forum for debate with our [conference on jobs and prosperity](#) to be held from 24-26 September. Our October issue will contain more reporting about the topics debated at this gathering.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

Publications

Social dumping and the EU integration process



This paper proposes a conceptualization of social dumping and applies it to an analysis of the EU integration process. Building on recent contributions in the fields of economic theory, economic sociology and institutional political economy, it defines social dumping as the practice, undertaken by self-interested market participants, of undermining or evading existing social regulations with the aim of gaining a competitive advantage.

The paper also argues that the social dumping practices of market actors are encouraged by policy initiatives of liberalization and deregulation.

Author: Magdalena Bernaciak

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Events

EduDay and EduConf focus on European Works Councils, Sofia

This year's **EduDay** (22 October) focuses on the European Works Councils (EWC). Participants will discuss trade union strategies and policies, as well as a training programme that will allow the effective participation of workers in transnational companies.

In the two-day **EduConf** from 23-24 October, the qualification of the members of the European Works Councils is a central theme. Actual case histories will be presented and the relationship between the training needs and training provision of the ETUI examined.

[Read more](#)

SEEurope Network Meeting: focus on Croatia

The SEEurope Network, whose work revolves around all aspects of workers' participation in the EU, is holding its next

Policy brief

Individualisation of the work relationship: a challenge for trade unions



This Policy Brief looks at changes in work organisation, the ways in which these lead to an individualisation of the work relationship and the negative consequences arising from the contradictions between how workers see their job and how management perceives it.

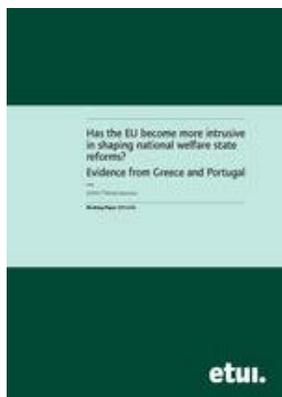
Author: Philippe Davezies

Also available in French

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Working Paper

Has the EU become more intrusive in shaping national welfare state reforms? Evidence from Greece and Portugal



This Working Paper shows that the EU has used the financial bail-outs of crisis-hit countries such as Greece and Portugal to intrude into the reform of national social and labour market policies. Through the use of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) the EU has pushed the bailed-out countries to adapt pension modernisation, decrease unemployment benefits, expand active labour market,

weaken employment protection systems and decentralise collective wage bargaining structures.

Author: Sotiria Theodoropoulou

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Report

European trade unionism: from crisis to renewal?

This report by ETUI researcher Magda Bernaciak, Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick (University of London) and Richard Hyman (London

meeting from 27-28 October in Croatia, the newest EU Member State which acceded in July 2013. Of particular interest to the Network is the fact that Croatian employees are represented at board level in larger companies and in all Croatian public limited companies. The meeting is being arranged together with the SEEurope correspondent from Croatia and in close cooperation with the two main Croatian trade union federations. The network meeting will be rounded out with a semi-public event for trade union officials and experts; this gathering will focus on industrial relations in Croatia and Croatia's expectations of the EU, in particular with respect to industrial democracy and economic development.

Conference on psychosocial risks

On 15-16 October, the Spanish trade union institute Ista is organising a joint conference on psychosocial risks (PSR) with the ETUI in Brussels. The event will focus on a presentation of the outcomes of E-impro, a European project aimed at improving trade union participation in the prevention of psychosocial risks. The project was run in France, Spain, Italy and Turkey.

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Save the dates

- 17 September: OSE-ETUI Lunchtime Session: [Sur l'histoire de l'Europe et ses leçons pour le futur](#), Brussels (in French).
- 24-26 September: Conference - **Europe at a crossroads. Which way to quality jobs and prosperity?**, Brussels.
- 22-24 October: **EduDay and EduConf**, Sofia.
- 29 October: Monthly Forum - **The European Parliament: friend or foe of progressive Europe?**, Brussels.
- 21 November: ETUI Conference cycle - [The social-ecological transition: A new climate for the EU's sustainability transition](#), Brussels.

Recent events

11-12 September

ETUI annual meeting on safety and health

The annual strategic meeting of the Workers group of the Advisory Committee for Safety and Health at Work took place on 11 and 12 September 2014. This seminar is staged every year by the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) to coordinate trade union actions in that field across Europe. It



School of Economics) looks at how the diversity of European 'trade unionisms' leads to a diversity of challenges. It outlines several imaginative initiatives and innovations undertaken by trade unions in recent years, especially in

terms of membership organising, mergers and organisational restructuring, collective bargaining, social partnership and cross-border cooperation.

[Read more](#)

Transfer Austerity and public sector restructuring



The August issue of our magazine *Transfer* concentrates on the impact the austerity policies adopted in a number of EU Member States are having on municipal public sector employment and the ways in which collective bargaining and employee participation are attempting to deal with the consequences for employees.

[Read more](#)

Training

Understanding and influencing the EU Semester - a practical approach for trade unions

The Education Department of the European Trade Union Institute will organise a course 'Understanding and influencing the EU Semester - a practical approach for trade unions' which will be held from 15 to 17 October 2014, in Brussels, Belgium.

This training aims to enhance trade union capacity to be consulted at national level during the European Semester.

[Read more](#)

Trade Union Communications: priorities and

brought together in Rome (Italy) 50-odd trade unionists from 24 European countries.

8-10 September Workshop: Collective bargaining and the role of trade unions in capital cities

'Collective bargaining and the role of trade unions in capital cities' is the name of a workshop held in Vilnius from 8 to 10 September 2014. Thirty participants representing trade unions from 15 European capitals shared experience of the role and development of collective bargaining in local trade union work.

During the workshop, participants analysed bi-partite or tripartite strategies adopted in the European areas of Capital Regions and designed to promote quality jobs and combat social dumping in its various forms. At the same time, they examined the role and involvement of trade unions and developed best practices.

The main aim - to create a trade union network from European Capital cities - was achieved. Participants expressed their consensus concerning the promotion of democracy and protection of workers' interests, a goal that was identified as being the same throughout Europe.

4 September Monthly Forum: EU social policy and the internal market: how power and conflict inside the Commission shape the policy for Europe

The September Monthly Forum heard a presentation by Miriam Hartlapp (Professor for 'Governance and Organisational Studies', Center for Social Policy (ZeS), University of Bremen) on the main results of her research on the power structure and policy-making process in the European Commission.

The presentation and a video registration of this Monthly Forum are available on the ETUI web site.

[Read more](#)

24-27 August XXth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work

Aida Ponce Del Castillo, the head of the ETUI Working Conditions, Health & Safety unit participated in the 20th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Frankfurt

strategies

The European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) in co-operation with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) is planning a training programme for communicators from ETUC member organisation on the theme 'Trade Union Communications: Priorities and strategies'.

This training will take place in Rome, from 9 to 10 October 2014.

[Read more](#)

(Germany). She took part in a panel focused on the trade union strategies for tackling unhealthy workplaces and delivered an address on the potential impact on workers' health of the spread of nanomaterials in the industry.

[Read more](#)

In the media

- ETUI senior researcher Béla Galgóczi was interviewed by the Danish media [Notat](#) on the exodus of young workers from Latvia and Romania.
 - ETUI senior researcher Tony Musu was interviewed by ChemicalWatch on the issue of chemical controls for construction products
 - The BBC's business news service interviewed senior researcher Martin Myant on the economic situation in Europe.
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