

## Editorial

The ETUI-ETUC conference 'Shaping the new world of work', which took place three weeks ago in Brussels, was a success both in terms of the number of participants and the political importance of its content. We received much positive feedback from the participants, who were very satisfied with the exchange of information, research and political perspectives. With its 650 delegates, 150 speakers, 24 panels and 7 plenary sessions, this event made a considerable effort to answer the question of how trade unions and civil society can work towards promoting a 'social digitalisation of work and the workplace', based on consultation and negotiation.

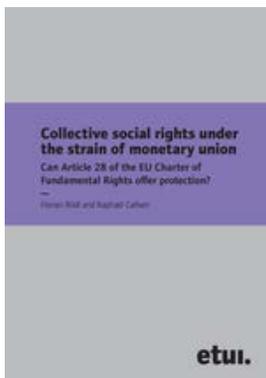
The debate has certainly been opened up and the ETUI has been receiving an increasing number of invitations to present its expertise in this field. One example is the [hearing at the French prime minister's Conseil d'orientation pour l'emploi](#) on 7 July 2016 in Paris, at which ETUI senior researcher and head of the 'Foresight studies' unit, Christophe Degryse, was invited to present his views on the digitalisation of the economy.

Following the June conference, the [conference webpages](#) have been updated with videos, news stories, presentations, speeches and other background documents. Soon you will also be able to read the individual panel reports and the overall conference report.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

## Publications

### Collective social rights under the strain of monetary union. Can Article 28 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights offer protection?



This report examines in depth the legality of the measures taken by the European Union, alongside the European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in the wake of the financial and debt crisis.

Authors: Florian Rödl and Raphaël Callsen

[Read more](#)

### Too little, too late? Evaluating the European Works Councils Recast Directive

In 2009, Europe launched a Recast Directive on European Works Councils (EWCs) aiming to improve (1) the effectiveness of

## Focus

### HesaMag #13: Construction workers at the mercy of social dumping



In the past decade job competition among European building workers has been increasing. The free movement of labour in an eastwards enlarged Europe has triggered a downward wage spiral, as well as deteriorating working and safety conditions. The European Union and its controversial directive on the posting of workers often get the blame, even though the Community legislation now allows public authorities – a key actor in the construction market – to include social

and environmental criteria in their tender procedures. Besides the challenge of combatting social dumping, the special report addresses other major concerns for building workers and their unions: the continuing exposure to asbestos, women's access to this industry and improving the safety of construction machinery.

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## Recent events



EWCs and (2) increase the amount of EWCs. In 2016, this Recast Directive will be evaluated by the European Commission. This report feeds into this, building on data of EWC agreements from the EWC Database managed by the ETUI.

Author: Stan De Spiegelaere

[Read more](#)

## The platform economy and the disruption of the employment relationship



This policy brief considers the impact of online platforms on labour markets and on the employment relationship in particular. It discusses the importance of outsourcing platforms, arguing that the 'collaborative economy' used by the European Commission (EC) is a misleading concept, as the trend is in fact just an extension of the market mechanism.

Authors: Jan Drahokoupil and Brian Fabo

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## Special issue of SEER - An elusive target: the EU perspective of the Western Balkans. A selection of 17 years of SEER

The articles in this collection are full of ideas as to how to define a better way which secures and delivers the integration of south-east Europe.

[Read more](#)

## Training

### Training for a more united and inclusive Europe

## Where do we go from here?

### Day 3 Conference 'Shaping the new world of work'

The final day of the ETUC-ETUI Conference on Shaping the New World of Work looked to the future, and how policy-makers, employers and trade unions can best tackle the challenges of digitalisation.

[Read more](#)

## There should be no 'digital losers', say trade unions.

### Day 2 Conference 'Shaping the new world of work'

"We are living through a digital revolution" believes Gunther Oettinger, European Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society. Digital services are transforming every sector of our lives.

[Read more](#)

## From tomorrow's vision to today's trade union actions.

### Day 1 Conference 'Shaping the new world of work'

Trade unions must be closely involved in the evolution of a new, climate-friendly global economy based on Internet connectivity and new technologies. World-famous American economist and government adviser Jeremy Rifkin set out his vision for the third industrial revolution at the three-day Shaping the New World of Work conference in Brussels on 27 June, organised by the ETUI and ETUC.

[Read more](#)

## Workers and chemicals: 12th ETUI seminar

The 12th edition of the ETUI's annual seminar on chemicals and worker protection took place from 30 June to 1 July 2016. It brought together some 40 trade union members from across Europe with a view to coordinating trade union action on the current revision of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive.

[Read more](#)

## German foundation presents new tools to assess EU governments' social policies

The Bertelsmann Foundation, the largest private non-profit foundation in Germany, presented the most recent findings of two social policy monitoring instruments, the Social Justice Index and the Reform Barometer, at an ETUI monthly forum on 2 June.

[Read more](#)



18 participants from 9 different countries participated in the ETUI course 'Migration and Workers' rights', organized in Paris from 4 to 6 of June. With the support of CGT and CGIL, this training aimed to reinforce and enlarge the Union Migrant Network and to share experiences and practices preventing xenophobia and racism at the workplace and in society at large. The presentation of the ETUC mid-term strategy on 'Migration, Asylum and Inclusion' by the confederal secretary Liina Carr, the visit to the Immigration Museum and debate with its director Benjamin Stora, and the presentation given by the author Souleymane Bagayogo about his migration and expulsion experience, were some of the highlights of a course where participants were able to share experiences, perspectives and strategies that will reinforce the role of trade unions as central actors in the movement towards social cohesion in Europe.

## In the media

- 18/07 - [De vakbond lijkt elke connectie met de jeugd te zijn verloren. Maar is dat wel zo?](#), Knack, Belgium.
- 14/07 - [Chinese delegates discuss market economy status at EU China Summit](#), CCTV America, USA.
- 12/07 - [Let's give a new boost to European Works Councils](#), Social Europe Journal, UK.
- 12/07 - [Michel Bauwens: Uber 'should be regulated like rest of the economy'](#), Euractiv.
- 12/07 - [La Flandre, n'est pas toujours moins grévicole que la Wallonie](#), La Libre Belgique, Belgium.
- 11/07 - [Cijfers bewijzen dat de taal- en stakingsgrens wel degelijk overeenkomen, maar je moet het met een serieuze korrel zout nemen](#), Newsmonkey, Belgium.
- 07/07 - [Resultaten van de 2009 richtlijn voor Europese ondernemingsraden](#), FNV Internationaal/Europa nieuwsbrief, Netherlands.
- 01/07 - [Révision de la directive cancers : peut mieux faire !](#), Santé & Travail, France.
- 01/07 - [ILO Director-General: 'The future of work is not determined by technology, we can shape it!'](#).
- 27/06 - [Shaping the new world of work](#), Social Europe Journal, UK.

## Strong unions and extended collective bargaining make wages more equal, new research finds

At a monthly forum, François Ghesquière presented the findings of his research on wage inequality. Ghesquière employed a cross-national comparison of the situation in different Western European countries in order to assess the impact of institutional configurations on wage inequality.

[Read more](#)

## Other activities

- ETUI senior researcher Torsten Müller has written an article for the new issue of [CLR News](#) on the ETUC's approach to the coordination of collective bargaining. The issue also contains a review of some recent ETUI books.
- Martin Myant, head of the ETUI unit 'European Economic, Employment and Social Policy', published an article in the Spanish trade union publication *Gaceta sindical* on TTIP: '[ATCI/TTIP: su lugar en las estrategias comerciales de EEUU y la UE y su repercusión en las condiciones económicas y sociales.](#)'
- Christophe Degryse, head of the ETUI 'Foresight studies' unit, was invited to give a talk on the impact of the digitalisation of the economy at the [Employee's chamber](#) (Chambre des salariés) on 8 June in Luxembourg. Read an interview with Christophe here: [Eine Gefahr für das Sozialmodell, Wort, Luxembourg](#). On 17 June, he also gave a talk at the conference organised by the Institut des hautes études de développement et d'aménagement des territoires en Europe (IHEDATE), held at the Permanent Representation of France in Brussels. On 7 July, Christophe again presented his views on the digitalisation of the economy, this time at a [hearing at the French prime minister's Conseil d'orientation pour l'emploi](#) on 7 July 2016 in Paris.
- ETUI senior researcher Laurent Vogel participated in the conference debate '[Les ouvrières de la FN : au-delà des commémorations, pour une histoire par en-bas](#)' on 10 June 2016 in Brussels.
- ETUI senior researcher Jan Drahokoupil spoke at the meeting '[Policy Implications of Virtual Work](#)', hosted by the Austrian Federal Chamber of Labour in Brussels on 9 June 2016.
- The NanoDIODE EU project had its final conference on 31 May at the BOZAR in Brussels. In its capacity as a project partner, the ETUI participated in the discussion on the future

- 20/06 - [Brave new work!](#), Metis, Belgium.
- 17/06 - [Regering-Michel is bijna stakingskampioen](#), De Standaard, Belgium.
- 17/06 - [Le gouvernement Michel, quasi-champion des grèves](#), Le Vif, Belgium.
- 09/06 - [Eine Gefahr für das Sozialmodell](#), Wort, Luxembourg.
- 06/06 - [The Commission proposes revising the directive on carcinogenic and mutagenic agents](#), Eurogip, France.
- 06/06 - [Betaalstakingen erkennen: een goed idee?](#), De Wereld Morgen, Belgium.
- 04/06 - [Digitalna ekonomija nas sve manje treba i drastično smanjuje naša radna prava](#), Jutarnji Business, Croatia.
- 03/06 - [Les impacts sociaux de la digitalisation](#), Force Ouvriere, France.

of stakeholder engagement with nanomaterials and nanotechnologies development. A 'Knowledge Fair' was also organised and the ETUI presented the new nano-training materials and infographics, 'ETUI nano and workers V1.0'. Aida Ponce Del Castillo, head of the 'Working conditions, health and safety' unit at the ETUI, explained to the audience that these materials, developed together within a multi-disciplinary Community of Practice, were tested in a specific training session and that they are now available to be used and disseminated. There is also an ETUI web-based applet with interactive features that workers and safety representatives can use in the risk assessment when working with nanomaterials. [Read more](#)



- On 7 June the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) organised the annual 'Open Expert meeting on Safety and Health' in Brussels, where trade unionists in the fields of construction, woodwork and forestry gathered to discuss occupational health and safety in their respective sectors. Aida Ponce Del Castillo and senior researcher Laurent Vogel were invited to present. Aida explained the European Commission's policy on addressing working environment issues and psychosocial risks at work. Laurent spoke about the EU policy on chemicals at the workplace and the revision of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive.
- At the eighth biennial conference of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) EU standing group (in Trento, Italy on 16 June), Sotiria Theodoropoulou, senior researcher at the ETUI, presented the preliminary results of a network project on how EU fiscal austerity has been changing the pattern of labour market reforms in Europe. The output of the project will be published by Policy Press as an edited volume in 2017. Sotiria also participated in a roundtable discussion entitled 'What scope for alternative economic policies in the Eurozone?' as part of a week-long summer course on 'Thinking about the future' organised by the Complutense University in El Escorial, Spain.
- Aline Conchon, policy advisor at industriAll European Trade Union, and Magdalena Bernaciak, senior researcher at the ETUI, have been members of the advisory board of an ETUC-run project on letterbox companies. As part of the project, a report has just been published that documents tax avoidance and breaches of labour law and social security regulations in meat production, international road transport, car manufacturing and construction. [Read more and download the report.](#)

- The ETUI welcomes three new associate researchers. [Margherita Bussi](#) is currently research fellow at the University of Brighton (UK). Her work interests include school-to-work transitions, education and skills policies, active labour market policies and welfare institutions at the European and national levels. [Gérard Valenduc](#), who is also associate professor of social sciences at the universities of Namur (UNamur) and Louvain-la-Neuve (UCL), works on changes in work linked to the diffusion of information and communication technologies, changes in occupations and work organisation (including the gender dimension), digital skills, digital inclusion, and the relations between research, innovation and society. [Grigor Gradev](#) is currently a senior specialist for 'Workers Activities' at the ILO Office in Budapest.

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European Trade Union Institute  
Bd. du Roi Albert II, 5 – 1210 Brussels  
[www.etui.org](http://www.etui.org) – [etui@etui.org](mailto:etui@etui.org)

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