

Editorial

In his State of the Union speech last Wednesday, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, announced his intention to lay out a long-term vision for the future of the European Union at the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome. This White Paper will consider, among other things, how to strengthen and reform the Economic and Monetary Union. Juncker also put forward some concrete actions for the coming year, which will be 'decisive if we want to reunite our Union'. These actions will focus on the preservation of European common values, such as the free movement of workers, social justice, a fair taxation system, and the protection of workers and industries through social dialogue. He also reiterated the important role of the euro in protecting the Eurozone from financial instability and in creating jobs, and insisted that Europe must 'invest strongly in its youth, in its jobseekers, in its start-ups'. However, as the [ETUC pointed out in its official response](#), there were no new policy proposals to tackle low wages, precarious work, the exploitation of migrant workers and social dumping.

The ETUI has been working on all these issues for a long time, underlining the importance of the stabilisation of the Eurozone for social and economic recovery in the short or medium term. In the coming month we will be hosting an event with Maurizio Ferrera, professor of political science at the University of Milan, who is one of Europe's foremost experts on the welfare state. He will argue that the reconciliation between welfare and the EU is not a "mission impossible". A new series of events – the Foresight debates – will be launched on 24 October with a talk by Karl Falkenberg, Senior Adviser to the European Commission (EPSC), on a 'European Vision for Sustainability'. This series aims to open up the discussion on the global trends that pose diverse challenges to our societies and economies.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

Publications

Understanding Ireland's economic crisis and its aftermath



This policy brief analyses Ireland's economic recovery and concludes that the narrative about fiscal austerity and internal devaluation producing an Irish growth miracle is simplistic and misleading. The author proves that the Irish economy's strong growth performance since mid-2014 can be attributed to a confluence of internal and external factors that have cumulatively added strong tailwinds to growth.

Author: Tom McDonnell

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Digitalisation: challenges for company codetermination

Focus

Update of ETUI strike map



The ETUI interactive strike map has been updated over the summer. This visual strike map shows for most European countries, since the year 2000 the development of 'days-not-worked' due to industrial action per 1,000 employees and the participation in industrial action per 1,000 employees. It shows also detailed information per member state. social

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Events

Save the dates

- 27 September: Monthly Forum - [Implementing European Social Fund programmes: the role of national industrial relations in the field of vocational training](#)
- 19 October: Monthly Forum - Managers, BusinessEurope



This policy brief looks at how effective worker participation can make digitalisation a programme for success for companies and employees alike. The author provides a great number of good examples of negotiated solutions on the company level.

Author: Manuela Maschke

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Why far right parties do well at times of crisis: the role of labour market institutions



This working paper argues with extensive statistical analysis that the rise of far-right parties in Europe has less to do with the economic crisis and unemployment levels as such but more with specific labour market policies and institutions.

Authors: Tim Vlandas and Daphne Halikiopoulou Fabo

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New issue of *Transfer*: Strikes and union-led protests in the age of austerity

The latest edition of *Transfer*, the ETUI's research quarterly that looks in particular at industrial relations, focuses on the strikes and trade union actions that have taken place in Europe since the start of the economic crisis.

August 2016: [Strikes and union-led protests in the age of austerity](#) (coordinators: Heiner Dribbusch and Kurt Vandaele). Read the [free editorial](#) (also in [French](#) and [German](#)) and the article by Kurt Vandaele [Interpreting strike activity in western Europe in the past 20 years: the labour repertoire under pressure](#).

European Works Councils and SE Works Councils in 2015

The publication *European Works Councils and SE Works*

and the development of European Works Councils (registration will be open on our website soon)

- 24 October: Foresight debate - A European Vision for Sustainability (registration will be open on our website soon)
- 26 October: Heading for collision: the euro against welfare? (registration will be open on our website soon)
- 16 December: Occupational Cancer in Europe (registration will be open on our website soon)

Recent events

When negotiating the 'new world of work', best to avoid naivety

The emergence of a 'new world of work' interferes with traditional forms of work organisation. There is an underlying risk for the workers' movement to lose control on matters as crucial as working hours and working arrangements. Are traditional collective bargaining systems still the proper tool for regulating the new world of work? From a trade union perspective, it was clearly one of the most challenging questions on the agenda at the ETUI conference 'Shaping the new world of work', held in Brussels in June.

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Other activities

- ETUI associated researcher Vassil Kirov has, together with Violaine Delteil, recently published the book [Labour and social transformation in Central and Eastern Europe: Europeanization and beyond](#) as part of the Routledge series 'Studies in the European Economy'. The book examines a wide range of countries in Central Europe, offering a comprehensive view of labour developments in Central and Eastern Europe. ETUI senior researchers Jan Drahokoupil and Martin Myant have also contributed to the book. If you would like to purchase it you can get 20% off by entering the code FLR40 [at the checkout](#).
- Sotiria Theodoropoulou, senior researcher at the ETUI, gave a presentation on 'Labour market reforms in the era of pervasive austerity' at the 46th annual conference of the University Association of Contemporary European Studies, which was held in Queen Mary University of London. Sotiria has also contributed a chapter entitled 'National social and labour market policy reforms in the shadow of EU bailout conditionality: the cases of Greece and Portugal' to the new edited volume by Caroline de la Porte and Elke Heins, [The sovereign debt crisis, the EU and welfare state reform](#), which has just been published by Palgrave MacMillan for their 'Work and Welfare' series.
- Laurent Vogel, senior researcher at the ETUI, participated in

Councils in 2015. Facts and figures is next to English now also available in French, Polish, Italian and German. [Find all language versions](#).

Training

The Pedagogical Committee of the ETUI Education department gathered together on 7 and 8 September to brainstorm ideas for next year's working programme. Preparations were also made for the ETUI education conference, EduDays 2016. The conference will run from 11 to 13 October 2016 in Gdańsk, Poland, under the motto '**Reflect to innovate and Evaluate to renew**'.

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In the media

- 03/06 - [The European countries that strike the most](#), Independent, UK.
- 07/06 - [Carcinogens that should be subject to binding limits on workers' exposure](#), SubSport, Belgium.
- 18/07 - Interview with Christophe Degryse on the 'ubérisation' in the CGT magazine « Ensemble » (no. 90, p. 9), France.
- 19/07 - [Exposition inquiétante des caissiers et des ouvriers d'imprimerie au BPA](#), Info Risque, France.
- 22/0 - [Theresa May is right: workers on business boards can help shares](#), Bloomberg, UK.
- 26/07 - [The sharing economy that is not: shaping employment in platform capitalism](#), Social Europe Journal, UK.
- 01/07 - [Dirka proti socialnemu dnu](#), Mladina, Slovenia.
- 07/09 - [Caterpillar: des dividendes qui passent mal](#), Le Soir, Belgium.
- 07/09 - [Let's raise the bar for European Works Councils](#), Euractiv, Belgium.
- 13/09 - [Caterpillar en de sanctie van 50 euro](#), De Standaard, Belgium.

the international colloquium [Retour sur Marcinelle](#), organised by the history department of the ULB and the Italian Cultural Institute, in Brussels on 8 and 9 September. His presentation was titled 'Entre catastrophes et mobilisations sociales, les déterminants du droit de la santé au travail'

- ETUI senior researcher Stefan Clauwaert had an article published in the June issue of *Revue de droit du travail*: 'Le droit à l'action collective (y compris le droit de grève) du point de vue de la Charte sociale européenne du Conseil de l'Europe'.
- The ETUI documentation centre took part in the 47th Annual Conference of the International Association of Labour History Institutions (IALHI) on 7-9 September in Helsinki, organised this year by the Labour Archives. The theme was 'Heritage of Social Movements in a Global Perspective - Collecting and Preservation of Sources'. It was confirmed that free digital versions of ETUI publications are now available on Europeana, the EU digital platform for cultural heritage (<http://europeana.eu/>).
- ETUI senior researcher Christophe Degryse participated in a [conference on digitalisation](#) which took place in Bern on 9 September. His intervention focused on the trade unions' views on digitalisation. He also participated in the international [conference 'Collective bargaining developments in times of crisis'](#) organised by the Université Lumière Lyon 2 on 15 and 16 September. He intervened in the round table on digitalisation of employment and collective bargaining.

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