

## Editorial

The European Semester 2017 starts with the presentation of the so-called 'European Semester Autumn Package'. The [Annual Growth Survey](#), which outlines economic and social priorities for the EU, the euro area and the Member States for the year ahead, forms a substantial part of this package. This year we can identify some decidedly positive reorientations; for example, the stress on the importance of ensuring social fairness as a way to stimulate more inclusive growth, as well as some additional flexibility in the Commission's interpretation of the rules of the Stability and Growth Pact (see this link for the [ETUC's position](#)).

Moreover, Commissioner Thyssen's message to workers that 'wage-setting should be effective for both job creation and real income increase' seems to pave the way for a more serious discussion about wage increases, which is something that the ETUC has called for. However, while these are welcome changes, it must be noted that the Commission has not diverted from its austerity approach. This sharply underlines the need for a serious analysis based on an alternative vision.

We recommend to our readers the '[Independent Annual Growth Survey \(iAGS\)](#)', published now for the fifth time in parallel to the Annual Growth Survey of the Commission. The team responsible for its annual composition includes the Chamber of Labour (AK, Austria), the Economic Council of the Labour Movement (ECLM, Denmark), the Macroeconomic Policy Institute (IMK, Germany) and the Observatoire Français des Conjonctures Economiques (OFCE, France); it also enjoys the financial support of the S&D group of the European Parliament. This document offers an interesting alternative evaluation of the economic strategy of the EU.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

## Publications

### Labour market segmentation and the EU reform agenda: developing alternatives to the mainstream



In this paper the authors argue that the current—overwhelmingly deregulatory—reform agenda is too narrowly specified. Above all, the debate needs to be turned around from the focus on de-regulation to the role of re-regulation for inclusive labour markets.

Authors: Jill Rubery and Agnieszka Piasna

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### Employment relations in an era of change

Employee and employer relations and their regulatory mechanisms and institutions are undergoing

## Focus

### Wanted: new director of ETUI's education department

The ETUI's education department is looking for a new director to lead its activities and coordinate the institute's European training programme for trade unionists and trade union leaders. He/she will work directly with the ETUI's senior management. Providing high-level quality trainings for union members and their leaders is one of the main priorities of the ETUI. The director of the education department is in charge of developing in assistance with his team of twelve people the strategic plans for future training courses and implementing those within the context of the priorities set out by the European Trade Union Confederation.

[Read more](#)

## Events

### Save the dates

- 8 December: Lunch debate - [From refugees to workers](#)
- 16 December: Monthly Forum - [Occupational cancer in Europe](#)



profound change in contemporary capitalist societies. This edited volume focuses on the dynamics and strategies of the social partners (unions and their representatives and employers and management) involved and affected by these transformations.

Authors: Valeria Pulignano, Holm-Detlev Köhler and Paul Stewart

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### The country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the social field. An overview and comparison. Update including the CSRs 2016-2017



This background analysis provides an overview of the 2016 specific recommendations to the EU Member States in the field of employment and social policies. It also includes a brief 'statistical' comparison between the CSRs for 2016-17 and those presented by the Commission and adopted by the European Council in previous years.

Author: Stefan Clauwaert

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### November issue of the ETUI review Transfer

The November issue of Transfer contains six articles which cover key issues for industrial relations in Europe. One of the articles focuses on the state of the European sectoral social dialogue.

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### The full report of the conference 'Shaping the new world of work' has been published.

It summarises the presentations and debates of the 3-day ETUC/ETUI conference on

## Recent events

### Leveraging the gulf in public opinion to enhance the social dimension of Europe

Maurizio Ferrera is an acknowledged expert on the topic of social protection systems in Europe. During an ETUI lunch debate held in Brussels on 25 October, he called for the establishment of a 'European Social Union', combining economic integration with social cohesion and requiring political, economic and intellectual elites to look beyond their normal frame of reference and initiate groundbreaking projects.

[Read more](#)

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### Moving Europe forward by balancing the competing demands of the economy, the environment and social progress

Karl Falkenberg, Senior Adviser for Sustainable Development to the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, believes that the European project should be revitalised by striking the right balance between the economy, the environment and social progress. On 24 October 2016, at the first of a new strand of events initiated by the ETUI with a view to discussing the future challenges of our societies and our economies under the heading of 'Foresight Debates', he summed up his vision as 'living well and sharing fairly within the limits of our blue planet'.

[Read more](#)

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## Other activities

- ETUI General Director [Philippe Pochet was interviewed](#) at the hearing on the European Pillar of Social Rights by the 'Social affairs, health and employment' section of the French Economic, Social and Environmental Council.
- Maria Jepsen, Director of the ETUI's Research Department, participated in the High Level Advisory Group of FEPS Next Left Social Europe, 'Rewriting the Rules for European Economy', which took place in Offenbach on 17 and 18 November. The seminar was introduced by Joseph E. Stiglitz, whose book *Rewriting the Rules of the American Economy* (2015) served as a premise for the debates. Maria also gave a presentation on the panel 'Decent jobs for all' at the [EESC-ILO conference on the 'Future of Work'](#), which took place on 15 and 16 November 2016 at the premises of the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels. This high-level conference is part of the ILO global initiative on the 'Future of Work', which brings together the views of social partners and civil society.



'Shaping the new world of work. The impacts of digitalisation and robotisation', held from 27-29 June 2016 in Brussels.

[Download the report.](#)

## Training

### Training on 'How to monitor and influence the EU decision-making process'

During this training course, which took place in Brussels on 16–18 November, presentations were given on the EU institutions and the ordinary legislative procedure, with reflections on what kind of role unions could and should play. The Belgian Confédération des Syndicats Chrétiens (CSC) and the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) shared their national- and European-level experiences, and there were sessions on developing practical tools and defining action plans. The training will be developed and improved in the next few months in order to better respond to the specific needs of national and European unions that are willing to play a stronger role in the EU decision-making process.

## In the media

- 13/10 - [Der gescheiterte Sozialstaat](#), Jungle World, Germany.
- 20/10 - [Greece might just get a boost from an unlikely source](#), Bloomberg.
- 27/10 - [European Works Councils: an experiment in workplace democracy which remains more relevant than ever](#), EuropBlog, UK.
- 28/10 - [Le travail partagé séduit de plus en plus](#), Le Figaro, France.
- -/10 - [Kollaborativ økonomi: Kan det frie arbejdsmarked forenes med velfærdsstaten?](#), Danish Teacher Trade Union, Denmark.
- 02/11 - [Löhne Und Wirtschaftliche Entwicklung In Europa – Die 3 Irrtümer Der 'Internen Abwertung'](#), Arbeiterkammer Wien, Austria.
- 05/11 - [Garanzia Giovani: a tre anni dall'avvio dati positivi, ma non tutto è rose e fiori](#), La Repubblica degli stagisti, Italy.

- At an information day on occupational cancer organised in Liège on 25 October 2016 by the André Renard Foundation, Laurent Vogel and Tony Musu, occupational health researchers at the ETUI and experts in their field, provided an overview of current European legislation aimed at protecting workers against carcinogens in the workplace and an update on the proposed amendments to the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive.

### Read more

- Laurent Vogel also contributed to the book *Le bien-être des travailleurs : les 20 ans de la loi du 4 août 1996 with a chapter entitled 'De la loi sur le bien-être au projet Peeters : la santé est-elle en vente dans la négociation du contrat de travail'*.
- Christophe Degryse, head of the ETUI's Foresight Studies unit, was invited to speak at a conference on digitalisation organised by Syndicom in Bern. You can watch his speech [here](#).

He also spoke at a seminar on the digitalisation of work, organised by the Bulgarian CITUB and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, on 18 November in Sofia. Other participants in the discussion included the Bulgarian Minister of Social Affairs Zornica Rusinova, the Director of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Regine Schubert, and representatives of European trade unions.



Christophe was also invited to talk on the issue of digitalisation and work at the works council of Régie Autonome des Transports Parisiens (RATP) in Paris on 3 November and at the conference organised by Alternatives Economiques, 'Les Journées de l'économie autrement', on 26 November in Dijon.

- ETUI senior researcher Magdalena Bernaciak participated in the fourth European Labour Mobility Congress, organised by the Labour Mobility Initiative (Inicjatywa Mobilności Pracy, IMP), in Cracow, Poland. In her presentation, Magdalena outlined the concept of social dumping and applied it to the analysis of EU Single Market developments. She also provided a historical overview of regulatory changes regarding posted work and reflected on recent debates on the issue.
- On 10 November, senior researcher Béla Galgóczi participated in an ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council of the UK) seminar in Brussels, organised by the Universities of Birmingham and Sheffield, about the potential impact of Brexit upon labour market regulation and labour migration in the UK and EU. His contributions focused on the expected effects of (a hard) Brexit on labour

- 21/11 - [The Guardian view on workers' representation: May's U-turn is a betrayal](#), The Guardian, UK.
- 24/11 - [Wages and economic performance – Three fallacies of internal devaluation](#), Social Europe Journal.

mobility in the EU.

- Jan Drahokoupil, ETUI senior researcher, contributed to a plenary discussion on the impact of technological change at a high-level conference on the future of work in Prague on 24–25 November. During the trip, he also spoke at a seminar on the legal challenges related to the 'sharing' economy at the Faculty of Law of Charles University. Earlier in the month, Jan served as an expert advisor in a diplomatic mission to Iran that shared the experiences that east European countries have had with enterprise restructuring and privatisation. He was also invited to give a talk on wage levels in eastern Europe at a conference on varieties of capitalism (SVOC) in Budapest.

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