

## From consensus building to action

The conference on the Pillar of Social Rights held on 23 January by the European Commission did not live up to expectations that it would define the future direction of Social Europe. The conference was widely attended and many high-level speakers addressed the audience. Participants could attend different workshops on topics such as tackling poverty, fair working conditions for all, and the future of work, among others. The event also brought together different stakeholders, some of whom were previously involved in the public consultation, to demonstrate that there is a broad consensus on the preliminary outline of the Social Pillar.

In the end, however, the picture remained unclear as to what actions will be taken in the framework of the Pillar. The main message which was repeated in every session was that social and economic issues should be treated equally, but there was little specification about how this will be carried out in practice. President Juncker said in his closing remarks that a European minimum income and a European minimum wage should be the priorities.

What is clear at this stage is that March will be a crucial month for presenting more concrete policy proposals. President Juncker has announced that the Commission will present a final proposal for the Pillar before the summit in Rome on 25 March, marking the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. At this occasion the 'Bratislava roadmap', which sets out orientations for the future, will also be finalised. The White Paper on the future of Europe's Economic and Monetary Union is also expected in March.

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

## Publications

### NEW ETUI Foresight Brief Shaping the world of work in the digital economy



For better or worse, the digitalisation of the economy has become an unavoidable theme in political and social debates. This new industrial revolution is predicted to disrupt the processes of production, the world of work and society at large. How can we prepare for this and how can we anticipate its effects?

Author: Christophe Degryse

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### Balancing protection and investment: structural reforms in five countries

Structural reforms are increasingly at the core of the European and national agenda.

## Focus

### Revamp of ETUI's REFORMS WATCH

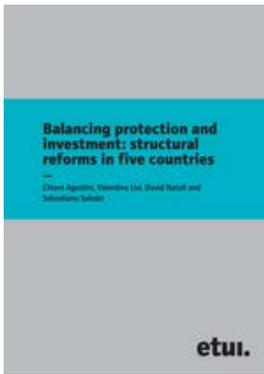


'Reforms Watch' - the recently launched online web information service produced by the ETUI has been made more user-friendly through a better navigation and a new design. You can from now on also access most of the EU country dossiers which provide fact-based information on the state of labour market reforms, the state of pension reforms, developments in legislation on strike action and data on strike activity.

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## Events

[Save the dates](#)

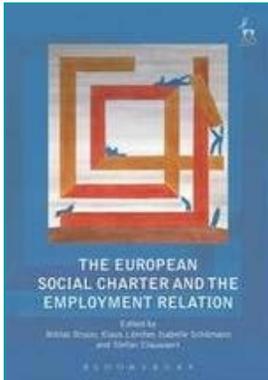


But what are they? And what are the main factors shaping their content?

Authors: Chiara Agostini, Valentina Lisi, David Natali and Sebastiano Sabato

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## The European Social Charter and the employment relation



The collection of articles in this book addresses the potential of the European Social Charter to promote and safeguard social rights in Europe.

Editors: Niklas Bruun, Klaus Lörcher, Isabelle Schömann and Stefan Clauwaert

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## Lohnpolitik unter europäischer 'economic governance'



This book deals with current issues of wages and collective bargaining in the context of the European crisis and the new system of European economic governance.

Editors: Torsten Müller, Thorsten Schulten, Guy Van Gyes

- 7-8 February: ETUI Expert Workshop - [Living wages in Europe](#)
- 13-14 February: ETUI Seminar - [His and hers: occupational hazards, health, justice and prevention actors](#)
- 23 February: Monthly Forum - From growth to well-being: a new paradigm for EU economic governance
- 27 February: Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2016
- 13 March: Monthly Forum - Prosperity without growth – Foundations for the economy of tomorrow
- 13 March: Launch of Benchmarking 2017
- 27–28 April: European Dialogue 2017

## Recent events

### From refugees to workers: still a long way to go

The year 2015 saw an influx of almost 1.3 million asylum seekers into Europe, representing a historic challenge for the reception and asylum systems of EU Member States. Access to the labour market is of central importance for the integration of refugees into our societies and economies; this was the main point highlighted during the presentation of a recent report by the German Bertelsmann Foundation at an ETUI lunch debate on 8 December.

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### Plea for a global plan to combat occupational cancer

Dr Jukka Takala, a world expert on work-related cancer, considers it necessary to establish a global programme for eliminating carcinogens in the workplace. 'Cancer is the primary cause of death in the workplace,' he stated on 16 December 2016 at an ETUI monthly forum.

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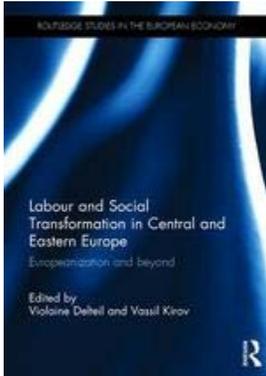
### 12 years after enlargement: are differences in labour markets and industrial relations here to stay?

Over a quarter of a century after the fall of the Berlin Wall and more than ten years after the enlargement of the European Union, the central and eastern European countries (CEECs) still show marked differences to the rest of Europe in the field of labour, work and industrial relations. This was the theme of the recently published book Labour and Social Transformation in Central and

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## Labour and social transformation in Central and Eastern Europe. Europeanization and beyond



This book presents a detailed and original analysis of labour and social transformations in the CEECs.

Editors: Violaine Delteil and Vassil Nikolaev Kirov

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## Uses and abuses of the OECD's Employment Protection Legislation index in research and EU policy making



This paper provides a critical assessment of the OECD's Employment Protection Legislation (EPL).

Authors: Martin Myant and Laura Brandhuber

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## News issue of *HesaMag*: Labour inspection, a public service in crisis

The articles published in the latest issue of *HesaMag*, the ETUI half-yearly publication on occupational health, are now online. The issue contains a special feature on labour inspection in Europe. Labour inspection services across Europe have been going

Eastern Europe which was presented at an ETUI seminar on 25 November.

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## Other activities

- General Director Philippe Pochet and senior researcher Christophe Degryse Degryse have written an Opinion Paper that has been published by the European Social Observatory (OSE), titled [Dialogue social européen : une relance 'de la dernière chance' ?](#). Philippe Pochet also contributed to the latest Special Issue of the *Intereconomics* review that focuses on the search for new forms and sources of economic growth in the European Union. More details on Philippe's article, 'From Social Pacts to Productivity Boards', can be found [here](#).
- Senior researcher Béla Galgóczi participated in a conference organised by the province of British Columbia in Canada, 'Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow – BC's Green Jobs Conference' on 24-25 November. He also took part in an event in Toronto on a related topic that was organised by the network 'Adapting Canadian Workplaces to Respond to Climate Change' and co-ordinated by York University (Canada), the University of Westminster (UK) and Colorado (US). His talk, 'Dark politics and the green transformation', focused on the restructuring of energy-intensive regions in Europe. In this context, a recent UNFCCC report, entitled [Just transition of the workforce, and the creation of decent work and quality jobs](#), cites the study that Bela wrote for the ILO on the Ruhr region's transition from black to green industry (see pp 32-34).
- Health and safety senior researcher Laurent Vogel spoke at a conference organised by The Greens in the European Parliament: 'The health scandal behind the use of pesticides in agriculture'. You can watch a video of the whole event [here](#). He also participated in the international colloquium [What sort of science\(s\) could make a better contribution to decision-making in occupational health?](#), which took place on 6-7 December 2016 in Paris. Furthermore, he published an article on the history of health and safety in the 1960s-70s in Italy in the journal *Laboreal* (in [Spanish](#)) and on the 1966 FN (Fabrique nationale d'armes de Herstal) strike (female metal workers in Belgium) in the new electronic journal of social history *Dynamiques. Histoire sociale en revue* (in [French](#)).

## In the media

- 24/11/2016 - [Wages and economic performance – Three fallacies of internal devaluation](#), Social Europe Journal.
- 29/11/2016 - [Europäische Betriebsräte feiern Jubiläum](#), Mitbestimmungsportal, Germany.

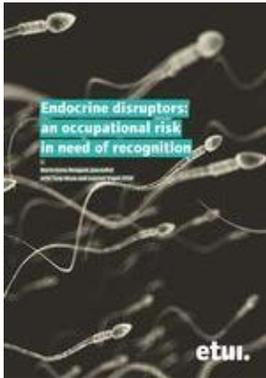


through an existential crisis. With few exceptions, workforces have been reduced while inspectors have been assigned more extensive duties.

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## Endocrine disruptors: an occupational risk in need of recognition



This guide takes stock of research findings on the health consequences of workers being exposed to chemical substances with potentially harmful effects on the endocrine system.

Authors: Marie-Anne Mangeot with the collaboration of Tony Musu and Laurent Vogel

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[Read also the news piece.](#)

## Guide de formation - Etre citoyen et syndicaliste en Europe



Ce guide est destiné aux formateurs et formatrices des organisations syndicales nationales.

- 01/12/2016 - [Défendre la santé et l'égalité : une dimension spécifique importante des luttes de travailleuses](#), Dynamiques. Histoire sociale en revue, n° 0, Belgium
- 02/12/2016 - [Europaweite Stärkung der Kollektivvertragssysteme gefragt](#), Arbeit Wirtschaft, Austria.
- 09/12/2016 - [Sciopero senza confini. alla conquista dei contratti europei](#), Contro la Crisi, Italy.
- 09/12/2016 - [Dai Cae allo sciopero senza confini. alla conquista di tutele e diritti europei](#), Il Manifesto, Italy.
- 10/12/2016 - [Αποψη: Τρεις πλάνες της εσωτερικής υποτίμησης](#), Kathimerini, Greece.
- 12/12/2016 - [Are FDIs contributing?](#), Political Critique, Slovakia.
- 21/12/2016 - [Pay and social protection in platform capitalism](#), Social Europe Journal.
- 23/12/2016 - [2016 stevent af op recordjaar stakingen](#), De Tijd, Belgium.
- 01/01/2017 - [Company takeovers - what rights do works council have?](#), EWC news.
- 01/01/2017 - [From social pacts to productivity boards](#), Intereconomics.
- 01/01/2017 - [Europäische Praktiker: 20 Jahre Ebr-Richtlinie](#), Mitbestimmung, Germany.
- 07/01/2017 - [Hou je mensen, ontsla hun uren](#), Deredactie.be, Belgium.
- 20/01/2017 - [L'Europe en mal de solidarité](#), La Libre.be, Belgium.
- 23/01/2017 - [The European Pillar of Social Rights: what is being proposed and the challenges ahead](#), LSE blog.
- 24/01/2017 - [Les députés européens laisseront-ils mourir 230 000 travailleurs exposés aux vapeurs diésel ?](#), Bastamag.

## Training

### First post-congress seminar of industriAll Europe

More than 60 participants from the industriAll European Trade

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Union, which represents workers from the manufacturing, mining and energy sectors across Europe, convened in Ghent for the seminar 'industriAll Europe: Moving Forward!' on 29 November–1 December. The debates centred around the challenges facing Europe and these sectors in particular, and what actions can be taken to deal with them, such as building transnational trade union power, influencing the processes and outcomes of digitalisation and ensuring decent work for refugees and migrants. These issues, among others, are key priorities for industriAll's 2016-2020 action plan.

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