



## Editorial

In my recent blog article I argue that the ambition and the potential role of the European Pillar of Social Rights in the development of EU social policy can only be assessed by placing it in its historical context. Looking at this issue from a historical perspective, we can see that around every 15 years an ambitious proposal of socially rebalancing the European project gets adopted.

15 years after the adoption of a Charter of Fundamental Rights and the negotiation of a Constitutional Treaty, and almost 30 years after the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers, the European Union now says it wants to make a new attempt at rebalancing and developing the social dimension.

This project has been realised in the form of a European social pillar comprising rights and principles distributed between 20 areas that are supposed to guarantee and improve the *acquis communautaire*. Numbering 15 documents in total, the result is neither very organised nor very clear.

The possible outcomes also vary greatly according to the economic and structural analysis made. Time will tell what the real potential of the Social Pillar will be: whether a damp squib, yet another round of incomplete results, or a first step towards achieving something more long-lasting than, at the very least, the six to seven years of the previous cycles.

You can read a more elaborated version of this blog article [here](#). On the same issue the ETUI has also just published a [Working paper](#) written by Zane Rasnača (see also her blog article [here](#)). They will both be presented, as well as an analysis of the 'social scoreboard' by ETUI researchers, at the [Monthly forum](#) of the ETUI on 8 November 2017.

**Philippe Pochet, General director ETUI**

## Publications

### **Condemned to be left behind? Can Central and Eastern Europe emerge from its low-wage model?**

This book focuses on the economic factors which have impacted on the low-wage economies of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), over the past twenty years.

[Read more](#)

### **Bridging the gaps or falling short? The European Pillar of Social Rights and what it can bring to EU-level policymaking**

This working paper explores whether or not the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), an initiative that has been called 'the last chance for social Europe', will succeed in filling in the gaps when it

comes to making social policy at the EU level.

[Read more](#)

## EU Observatory for Nanomaterials: a constructive view on future regulation

This Policy Brief provides information about the recently established 'EU Observatory for Nanomaterials', how it is being developed, its limitations and why it is not an ideal option.

[Read more](#)

## A law on robotics and artificial intelligence in the EU?

This paper discusses the European Parliament's Resolution of 16 February 2017 with recommendations to the Commission on Civil Law Rules on Robotics (European Parliament 2017).

[Read more](#)

## Events

8/11: Monthly forum: [The European Pillar of Social Rights – an ETUI view from a historic, legal and practical perspective](#)

14-15/11: [ETUI conference: Work and cancer](#)

23/11: [Travailler dans un monde d'algorithmes](#)

28/11: [Book launch: Building the European Public Service Unions, the history of EPSU from 1978 to 2016](#)

## Focus

There are currently two job vacancies at the ETUI. We are looking for

- a **Head of Unit "European economic, employment and social policies"**

Download the full vacancy [here](#). Applications and supporting documents (CV, list of publications, etc.) should be sent **before 10 November 2017**.

- a **Head of Unit of the Communication/Publication joint service**

Download the full vacancy [here](#). Applications and supporting documents (CV, evidence of qualifications, etc.) should be sent **before 23 November 2017**.

## Recent events

**OECD Confirms**

**AK/ETUI debate: How to**

## Research into Collective Bargaining is a Complicated Business

Presenting key OECD results on Collective Bargaining at the ETUI's recent monthly forum, titled: 'Collective Bargaining in a changing world of work', OECD Economist Andrea Garnero stressed the importance of Collective Bargaining as fundamental right and a key labour market institution.

[Read more](#)

## get European economic recovery to full speed?

On the 19th September, the ETUI and AK Europa organized a public debate engaging economists from the TUREC network, EU economic policymakers and the European social partners on how to get European recovery to full speed.

[Read more](#)

## 2nd annual meeting of the network of trade union related economists

On the 19-20th September, the 2nd annual meeting of the network of trade union related economists took place in Brussels, jointly organized by the ETUI and AK Wien. Around 40 economists from research institutes, trade unions and academia from around Europe participated.

[Read more](#)

## ETUI occupational health seminar focuses on the revision of six OSH directives

The main item on the agenda at the ETUI's annual Seminar on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), held in Tallinn (Estonia) on 6 and 7 September and attended by around 50 participants, was the ongoing revision of six OSH directives.

[Read more](#)

## Training

### ETUI conference on trade union education and training: will a new turn of the wheel bring us to a more social Europe?

Between 4 and 6 October 2017, the ETUI brought together around 100 trade union leaders, instructors, researchers and trainers to debate the importance of training and education for the trade union movement during its annual EduDays conference. This year's event, which took place under the motto 'Training together = training better', was held at the Training Centre of France's General Confederation of Labour [Confédération Générale du Travail, CGT] in south-west Paris. [Read more](#)

## In the media

20/10: [The European Pillar of Social Rights: Bridging the gaps or falling short?](#), LSE New European Trade Unions Forum

17/10: [The European Pillar of Social Rights in historical perspective](#), LSE New European Trade Unions Forum

10/10: [De politieke staking, een maat voor niets?](#), DeWereldMorgen.be

9/10: [Vakbonden en jongeren: nog vrienden?](#), Wiskeys

9/10: [Giving Juncker's Proposed European Labour Authority Real Clout](#), Social Europe

25/09: [Luka w płacach wciąż jest potężna](#), Rzeczpospolita

22/09: [Radnici u Hrvatskoj među pet najslabije plaćenih u EU](#), N1

22/09: [Hrvatski radnici među najgore plaćenim u EU](#), Al Jazeera Balkans

21/09: [La brecha salarial entre 'las dos Europas' supera los 1.000 euros](#), El pais

21/09: [Salários em Portugal são cerca de 500 euros mais baixos do que na Alemanha](#),  
Jornal Económico

21/09: [Češi mají na útratu o 11 tisíc měsíčně méně než Němci. Jsme otloukánci, zní z KSČM](#),  
Novinky.cz

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