



Editorial

In a recent Foresight Brief, I attempted to draw together the narratives of two major trends which will determine what the future will look like in the coming decades: climate change and the digitalisation of the economy. They have both been subject to separate analyses, but so far there does not seem to have been any unified approach to reconciling these two 'alternative futures'.

Each of these two narratives has two versions, in which changes are seen either as a result of a radical evolution or of a revolution involving a paradigm shift. To overcome the disconnection between the different narratives, I suggest putting the environmental transition in first place as it is crucially important, and failure to achieve it will leave us unable to turn back the clock. The new technological revolution, on the contrary, is merely the third, fourth or fifth technological revolution of capitalism.

We are currently witnessing a transition to green capitalism which has happened much more quickly than expected and it could be argued that investments will snowball, R&D efforts will intensify and there will be a cumulative impact as more and more people get on board. One obvious example of this is the production of electric cars, which are said to become no more expensive than conventional cars within the next eight years. In other words, capitalism is already undergoing a double transformation: green and digital.

If they are to gain influence in the debate on our future, trade unions and other social actors should try to form broad alliances, preferably in large cities, to build an increasingly powerful force for change, with the issue of inequality as an important common focus. In the longer term, a commitment to placing the issue of redistribution at the top of the political agenda is crucial.

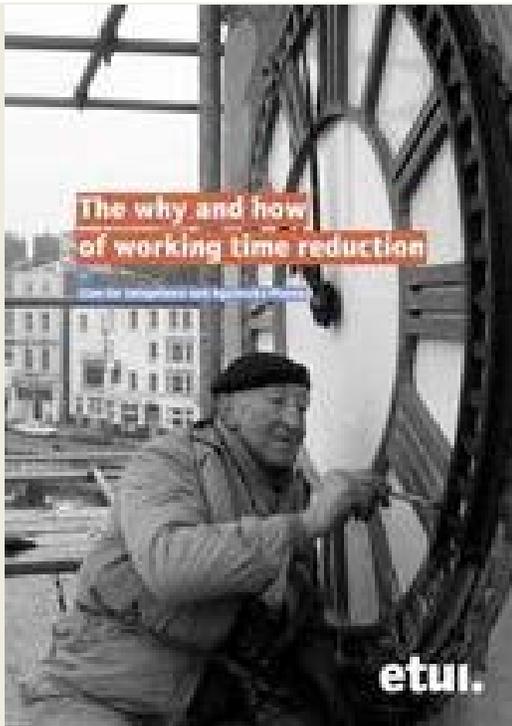
I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a rewarding 2018!

Philippe Pochet, General director ETUI

Publications

The why and how of working time reduction

This guide maps the discussion on working time reduction by examining the recent trends, the different reasons for implementing such a reduction, and the ways in which it can be organised. Illustrated with numerous real-life examples and insights from research, this guide is a



valuable resource for anybody wishing to know more about the working time reduction debate.

[Read more](#)

Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2017

The 18th edition of Social policy in the European Union: state of play reports on recent European Union (EU) and national social policymaking, with contributions from leading scholars pointing at attempts to move out of the multiple crises hitting the European Union since 2008.

[Read more](#)

Building the European Federation of Public Service Unions: the history of EPSU (1978-2016)

The European Federation of Public Service Unions will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2018. It is better known as 'EPSU' (the 'European Public Services Union'), a change of name made in November 2015

'Bad jobs' recovery? European Job Quality Index 2005-2015

This new Working Paper offers a detailed look at the quality of jobs held by European workers, and shows what aspects of work improved or deteriorated over the last decade. It updates the European Job Quality Index (JQI) – a measure that encompasses a broad range of work and employment characteristics.

[Read more](#)

Strengthening the EU's social dimension: using the EMU to make the most out of the Social Pillar

This policy brief examines how the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) can be used to strengthen the social

that represents both the organisation's mission statement and a key future ambition.

[Read more](#)

Two futures and how to reconcile them

Although there is little argument about the fact that climate change and the digitalisation of the economy are the two main trends that will matter most over the coming decades, to date they have predominantly been considered separately rather than together.

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dimension of the EU. For the EPSR to matter, the relevant actors should strongly commit themselves to its principles, ideally through a legally binding mechanism.

[Read more](#)

New issue of Transfer

Most of the articles featured in the 2017 'open issue' of Transfer, the European Review of Labour and Research, analyse the challenges that workers are facing in different European countries due to the internationalisation of work practices and regulations, as well as the ways in which trade unions mobilise local and international resources to address these challenges.

[Read more](#)

Events

25/01: Narrowing the gaps.14 years after enlargement – where are we on convergence? (more information will follow soon on the ETUI website)

30/01: [Monthly forum: Policy implications of virtual work](#)

Focus



New Labourline portal

The ETUI Documentation Centre has launched its new portal at the end of November. The new site has been seriously revamped with:

- a much faster and easier-to-use search engine (Google style)
- a more attractive visual design
- a new and more user-friendly way to access full-text documents, etc.

[Click here to explore the new Labourline](#)

Recent events

A combined approach needed at EU level to address the problem of contingent work

The growth of atypical work across the European Union is the research subject of many studies, but only a few analyse the issue of the decline of the standard employment relationship from the point of view of core and contingent work. This core/contingent perspective was the guiding theme of the 2014 edition of the Pontignano International Labour Law Seminar and later became the subject of the book "Core and Contingent Work", presented at an ETUI lunch debate on 1 December.

[Read more](#)

Training

ETUI online course "EWCs: the rules of the game"

ETUI Education has just launched the second edition of the online training "EWCs: the rules of the game". It will be delivered from 15/01 to 23/02/2018 and it will involve about 12 hours of work. Online tutors will support participants during the training. This course is intended to help worker representatives who are considering the establishment of a European Works Council in their company, newly elected members of a Special Negotiating Body or an existing EWC, and union officials supporting their members in multinational companies. The course will be in English only and it's free of charge. Deadline for enrolments: 10 January 2018.

[Click here for more information and enrolment](#)

In the media

8/12: [More Free Time — for Everyone](#), Jacobin

8/12: [Eine neue Arbeitswelt bahnt sich an](#), Lëtzebuerger Journal

10/12: [The selective protesters](#), Cyprus Mail online

11/12: [La digitalisation du travail inquiète au Luxembourg](#), Le quotidien

11/12: [‘Staken nog altijd effectief middel’](#), AOb

11/12: Die dunkle Seite der Digitalisierung, Luxemburger Wort

13/12: [Hoe Ryanair zijn werknemers onder de knoet houdt](#), De Morgen

[Watch here](#) a video with Christophe Degryse, Head of the ETUI Foresight unit, on the digitalization and its social impacts (only in French)

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