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Editorial

In less than a month the third largescale conference co-organised by the ETUI and ETUC will take place in Brussels. This conference entitled "[The World\(s\) of work in transition](#)" will be devoted to discussion of the impact of key «megatrends" on the world of work and is promising to be an equally exceptional event in terms of contributions and participants as the two previous events in 2016 and 2014.

The "megatrends" the conference will deal with - globalisation, technological change, demographic transition and climate change – represent a set of threats, or opportunities, depending on whether you're a glass half full or half empty kind of person. What they have in common is that each of these is daunting on its own. It may be why they tend to be analysed separately. There is, for example, a lot of research which looks at how to adapt workplaces to cope with the consequences of climate change, while other studies deal with how to upskill workers to prepare them for the digital age. At the same time, we are also interested in knowing whether the world is becoming more global, or on the contrary - centered on a few big regions? And what impact will ageing populations (as in Japan and Germany) have on the acceptance of robots?

But a case can actually be made that these developments interact with each other, which makes them worth studying together as one multifaceted transition – we could call it 'the future' - to see if common elements and solutions emerge. For example, is the switch to a low carbon economy, or a digitalised workplace, likely to involve a gentle transition, or sudden tipping point? Can most facets of these transitions be safely left to the market, or is there a role for government in managing change? To what extent is rapidly advancing technology a problem (entailing the mass automation of routine occupations) or a provider of solutions (a means to switch to clean fuels, or tackle labour market bottlenecks caused by shifting demographic patterns)?

Trade unions facing these new realities can play an important part in shaping the future. With this in mind, the June 2018 conference will bring together trade unions and globally-renowned experts on the green economy, industrial policy, training, labour markets, occupational safety, technology and migration to discuss, analyse and synthesise these megatrends. Thinking systematically about them together, and in one place, will force experts and attendees to confront the policy implications of these transitions in a joined-up way.

If you want to be part of these exciting discussions, you can [register here](#). Registration is free of charge but compulsory. The full programme is available on the [ETUI website](#). Additional information will be added in the run-up to the conference so please check out this page regularly.

Philippe Pochet, General director ETUI

Publications



Technological revolutions and societal transitions

Are we currently living through a new industrial and technological revolution? Does it differ qualitatively from similar revolutions in the past? How can we gauge its political implications? Researchers working within the school of evolutionary economics, in particular those who embrace the concept of techno-economic paradigms, regard the ongoing digitalisation of the economy not as a new revolution, but as the turning point between the installation period and the deployment period of a paradigm based on information and communication technologies.

The Foresight Brief is also available in French [here](#).

[Read more](#)

May 2018 edition of Transfer

The May 2018 edition of Transfer, the European Review of Labour and Research has just been published with a focus on 'Trade Union and the polity: agendas and alliances'. The special issue, the second in a series of Transfer reports on the state of trade unionism in Europe, examines how new political alliances and networks have formed as the gap between unions and political parties has widened over the last few decades.

[Read more](#)

The concept of 'worker' in EU law: status quo and potential for change

In the changing world of work and the emergence of new forms of employment that are often in the grey zone between traditional employment and self-employment the question of the scope of protection of labour and employment law becomes again more urgent.

[Read more](#)

Recent events and news



ETUI is now on Facebook

From now on you will be able to follow the activities and news of the ETUI also on Facebook: like the page and invite others as well!

[ETUI's Facebook page](#)

TURI Network of Trade Union Research Institutes celebrates Tenth Anniversary

The tenth anniversary of the TURI (trade union-related research institutes) network was marked this month when the group of 32 member organizations met in Berlin to discuss the current challenges facing labour and trade unions.

[Read more](#)

Grigor Gradev scholarship awarded for research on social protection in Central and Eastern Europe

The first recipient of a major research prize funded by the ETUC and ITUC is Ieva Bloma, a young scholar from Latvia, who will investigate whether enforcement of social protection in Central and Eastern Europe has suffered from the fallout from the economic crisis.

[Read more](#)

Events



ETUC/ETUI conference: The World(s) of Work in Transition

Find the full programme and related documents on the [ETUI webpage](#). If you are interested in attending the conference please [register here](#).

[If you wish to receive invitations for ETUI events, please register here.](#)

New in Reforms Watch

[UK: the intergenerational commission reveals that the UK is no longer delivering for youngsters](#), 28/5

[Germany: bill introduces right to work part-time during a fixed period](#), 28/5

[Bulgaria: migration and labour mobility act disputed by the trade unions](#), 10/5

[France: the reform of the French railways: what are the plans?](#), 7/5

[Spain: temporary work, skills mismatches and the lack of an active labour market policy](#), 5/5

[EU: European Commission pension report assesses the adequacy of future pensions](#), 3/5

[Croatia: fierce opposition against increase of statutory pension age](#), 2/5

In the media

1/5: [Strikes have not died out in the 21st century, they are being transformed](#), Equal Times

9/5: [Een remedie voor populisme: democratie op het werk](#), De wereld morgen

1/6: [Onderzoeker Stan De Spiegelaere over werkplekdemocratie](#), Arbeid & Milieu

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