



## Editorial

In just over four months the 14th ETUC Congress will take place in Vienna. Behind the slogan of the event, “A Fairer Europe for Workers!”, three main demands have been given priority: democracy & social justice; just transitions; and quality jobs & higher wages. The Institute has been contributing to the ETUC’s efforts with research, training or events on all these topics.

Last week the ETUI organized, jointly with the ETUC, [a thematic day](#) on trade unions and the threat of the extreme right in order to try to understand the phenomenon of their increasing support across Europe and to assess trade union strategies for fighting this. The rise of the extreme right almost everywhere in Europe is a general threat to democratic states, but it is also a threat to workplace democracy - with more and more workers being seduced by populist discourse. Simplistic promises of a bright future need to be answered by a new trade union narrative oriented towards accepting the present while offering an inclusive vision of the future. The Education department has been delivering outstanding work in this respect with its [courses](#) aiming at reinforcing trade union capacities for countering the far-right.

Just transition has been at the core of many activities of the ETUI in the past, but [another big event](#) on the topic is scheduled to take place next week. We will provide an opportunity to learn about and discuss four different publications on just transition, sustainable equality and the distributional effects of climate change, as well as exploring the links that can be made between research and policy. One of the two Spitzenkandidaten from the European Greens, MEP Bas Eickhout, will also attend the event and comment on the findings from his point of view in the run to the European elections. The reports are all very different and it promises to be a rich afternoon offering a lot of food for thought. You can still [register here](#).

The ETUI has been supporting the ETUC’s campaign on wages and has been conducting comparative research on wage developments and wage policies, and also on how the distribution of wages has changed over time. Special attention has been paid to the CEE countries, which after 29 years of transition from state socialism, and 14 years of EU membership, have not been able to close the gap in living standards and it does not look that it will be case anytime soon. Quality of jobs is also a major concern for the trade union movement. With governments and employers trumpeting the increase in jobs created in the aftermath of the crisis, the ETUI tries not to lose sight of the fact that the quality of these jobs is not always high, especially in view of the recent boom of non-standard employment in the platform economy. Interesting in this respect is the Working paper on [Deliveroo riders in Belgium and the SMart arrangement](#) published this month.

**Philippe Pochet, General director ETUI**

**ETUI is seeking to  
recruit a full time  
Education Officer**



Applications and supporting documents (CV, evidence of qualifications, etc.) should be sent before 11 February 2019

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## Publications

### **How to redesign the fiscal regime of the Eurozone: an alternative take on lessons from US and Eurozone experiences**

This Working Paper examines options for the design of a workable fiscal union for the euro area. It provides a comparative study of fiscal institutions in the US and euro area in order to supply lessons from the operation of the US fiscal regime that could inform the design of the, hitherto dysfunctional, euro regime.

[Read more](#)

### **Work in the platform economy: Deliveroo riders in Belgium and the SMart arrangement**

This paper presents a case study of the food delivery platform, Deliveroo, in Belgium in 2016-2018. The case offers insights on the nature of platform work, the workers who perform it, the preferences of workers, the strategy of the platforms, and the role of local regulations.

[Read more](#)

#### **Recently published translations of ETUI publications:**

The book "**The art of preventive health and safety in Europe**" has been translated into **Brazilian Portuguese**, download [here](#)

The guide "**The why and how of working time reduction**" has been translated into **Italian**, download [here](#)

## Recent events

**Protecting without being protected.**

**“Back to the future”:  
Trade unions need a**

## Basic EU social standards not applied to security personnel in the EU

In recent years, the EU has frequently made use of the provisions in Article 153 of the TFEU to set minimum standards on working and employment conditions of workers in the EU. Although the European Commission consistently tries to define “workers” as broadly as possible to include all workers, the Council has often sought to exclude civil servants or public administrations, police and military personnel from the scope of EU social directives, and recently also emergency services from the scope of the proposed directive on Transparency and Predictability of Working Conditions (TPWC).

[Read more](#)

## positive new narrative to win back workers’ votes

The rise of right-wing populist ideas and parties almost everywhere in Europe is a burning problem for the trade union movement, as a portion of its members have been seduced by the populist discourse and often simplistic promises propagated by these parties. Moreover, with European elections less than four months away, there is a risk of nationalistic and ethnocentric political ideas being transferred to the European level. In order to understand the phenomenon of increasing support for the far right across Europe, and assess trade union strategies for fighting those trends, the ETUI organized a thematic day to explore the issue, comprising an internal trade union discussion on the topic and a well-attended public conference.

[Read more](#)

## Save the date

4/02: [Just transition, sustainable equality and distributional effects of climate change: links between research and policy](#)

14-15/02: [EWPPC Conference: Enforcing the rights of SNBs, EWCs, and SE-Works Councils](#)

19/03: Monthly forum: Vulnerable workers & social protection reform (more information will be available soon on the website)

26/03: Launch of the ETUI/ETUC Benchmarking report 2019 (more information will be available soon on the website)

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

## New in Reforms Watch

[Germany: new migration law seeks to attract skilled workers, 8/01](#)

[EU: latest developments in pension policies and the labour market participation of elderly workers, 8/01](#)

[Cyprus: reform and enhancement of the labour inspectorate postponed, 11/01](#)

[Malta: Malta Council for Economic and Social Development to discuss proposal of compulsory union membership, 11/01](#)

[Hungary: working time reform leads to massive resistance, 18/01](#)

[Belgium: unions see no perspective for an interprofessional agreement based on contested 2016 wage law, 24/01](#)

[Slovenia: public sector pay improves, but 2019 will bring more structural income policy and tax reforms, 24/01](#)

## In the media

16/01: [Qui sont les champions européens de la grève ?, Le Quotidien](#)

16/01: [CER podcast series: The politics of slow growth in Europe, Centre for European Reform](#)

16/01: [Dans les hôpitaux de l'est de l'Ukraine, les guerriers de la santé, Mediapart](#)

27/12: [Danemark : les recettes du bonheur au travail , RTBF](#)

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