

This, the sixth open issue of *Transfer*, represents a further step to broadening debate within the journal and to encouraging authors not yet published in the journal to submit articles. The recent publication by the European Commission of its 2020 documentation, coupled with initiatives of the Commission to generate debate, provide the backdrop to this issue of *Transfer*. In particular, the absence of any specific social proposals in the 2020 documentation represents a further withdrawal from attempts to remedy the ‘fundamental asymmetry’ between the economic and social dimensions of European integration (Scharpf, 2002: 665) that was ever-more clearly in evidence during the so-called Lisbon process. Four of the five articles included in this issue of *Transfer* review aspects of the social dimension and indicate the current state of play. A feature of several of these articles is the activity undertaken or required by trade union organizations to ensure that the meagre aspects of the social dimension that are in place function more effectively. The fifth article analyses the peculiarities of recent trade union development in Spain and the challenges facing a union movement that is adjusting to globalization.

In the first article on aspects on the social dimension Niklas Bruun, Antoine Jacobs and Marlene Schmidt assess the implications of the *Rüffert* judgment made by the European Court of Justice for public contracts in the context of Convention No. 94 of the International Labour Organisation. The authors argue that there is a contradiction between the judgment and Convention No. 94, which brings into question the future of national systems of industrial relations and raises the prospect of the further undermining of national regulatory regimes. The authors propose amendments to the Posted Workers’ Directive (96/71/EC) in order to avoid this outcome. Of course, it remains to be seen whether the Barroso Commission, which took office in the Spring of 2010, will act to preclude this prospect.

The second article takes a somewhat more optimistic position in assessing the recent development of sectoral social dialogue. By means of case studies drawn from electricity and commerce (retail) Sabrina Weber highlights the emergence of ‘new generation texts’, which are not legally binding but are ‘implementation-oriented’. Although the author acknowledges that the impact of some of the new generation texts is difficult to demonstrate, the principal limitation to further development concerns the weakness or absence of institutions to link pan-European and national-level developments: that is, to ensure the implementation at national level of agreements concluded at European level. Among the institutions that might be involved in bridging the gap between European and national-level developments are the European industry federations. The development of European industry federations is the subject of the third article that reviews the current state of play within the social dimension. Torsten Müller, Hans-Wolfgang Platzer and Stefan Rüb trace the broadening ambit of responsibility allotted to the European industry federations and the consequent changes in their governance. Although the authors acknowledge the inadequacy of the resources available to European industry federations, they identify a growing willingness on the part of national affiliated trade unions to commit to transnational coordination strategies.

The fourth article on the development of the social dimension examines differences in the policies of trade unions towards the practices of European works councils in the finance sector. In particular, Deborah Hann identifies disagreements between trade unionists on the role of European works councils as inhibiting the role of such councils in the emergence of a European system of industrial relations. Debates between those favouring a more extensive negotiation role for European works councils and those arguing for an information and consultation based agenda are explored, together with efforts intended to generate more intense engagement in European works council activities among representatives.

The fifth and final article explores the recent developments among Spanish trade union organizations. In analysing aspects of Spain's transition to democracy from the perspective of the unions, Holm-Detlev Köhler and José Pablo Calleja Jiménez focus on the challenges facing a trade union movement that is adjusting to change. Issues associated with the organization and integration of new membership groups from private sector services are explored and the impacts of trade union policies on these organizing efforts are assessed.

References

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EDITORIAL

Ce sixième numéro ouvert de *Transfer* représente une nouvelle étape dans l'élargissement du débat au sein de la revue et doit encourager les auteurs qui n'y ont pas encore été publiés à soumettre des articles. La publication récente par la Commission européenne de sa documentation concernant la stratégie Europe 2020, conjuguée à des initiatives de cette même Commission pour susciter le débat, sert de toile de fond à ce numéro de *Transfer*. En particulier, l'absence de toute proposition sociale spécifique constitue un nouveau recul par rapport aux tentatives de corriger l'asymétrie fondamentale entre les dimensions économiques et sociales de l'intégration européenne (Scharpf, 2002: 665), qui avait été plus clairement que jamais mise en évidence lors de ce qu'on a appelé le processus de Lisbonne. Quatre des cinq articles figurant dans ce numéro de *Transfer* examinent des aspects de cette dimension sociale et font le point sur l'état actuel de la situation. Une caractéristique de plusieurs de ces articles est qu'ils évoquent l'action entreprise ou revendiquée par les organisations syndicales pour faire en sorte que les maigres aspects de la dimension sociale qui sont en place fonctionnent plus efficacement. Le cinquième article analyse les caractéristiques de l'évolution récente du syndicalisme en Espagne et les défis auxquels est confronté un mouvement syndical qui doit s'adapter à la mondialisation.

Dans le premier article sur les aspects de la dimension sociale, Niklas Bruun, Antoine Jacobs et Marlene Schmidt évaluent les implications de la décision de la Cour de justice de l'UE dans l'affaire *Rüffert* pour les contrats publics dans le cadre de la convention n°94 de l'Organisation internationale du Travail. Les auteurs estiment qu'il existe entre cette décision et la convention n°94 une contradiction qui remet en question l'avenir des systèmes nationaux de relations professionnelles et ouvre la perspective de nouvelles menaces sur les régimes nationaux de régulation.