Editorial: The Green New Deal after the Biden victory

By Bela Galgoczi, senior researcher

A collective sigh of relief and celebration was heard around the globe when the media on November 7th finally announced Joe Biden as the new President-Elect of the United States. It was not the projected blue-wave expected by many, instead, it was a convincing but still contested victory dissolving any belief that Trump’s 2016 win was a historical accident. While Trump will no longer be the president of the United States, his political legacy will possibly haunt the country for a long time. This and the possible lack of a Congress majority (up to a run-off in two Georgia districts in January) will limit Biden’s manoeuvres in bringing the legislative changes that the country desperately needs.

The race to zero-carbon: how credible?

By Willy De Backer, senior advisor

In recent months, several of the world’s biggest carbon-emitting countries have joined the European Union in a pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 (Japan, South-Korea) or 2060 (China). All in all, over 110 countries have made similar promises. But
what are these ambitious targets really worth? Can we believe them or is this just a 'race to zero' greenwashing exercise? Read more

**Decentralised hybrid training on socio-ecological contract**

How to create a learning community amongst trade unionists participating in a training session simultaneously but in different locations? This was the challenge of the first "decentralised face-to-face" training, a new training format inaugurated by the Education Department on the 8-9th of October, which combines face-to-face training with online sessions.

Entitled "Trade union and socio-ecological contract", the training gathered more than 50 participants from three countries (Italy, Spain, and Bulgaria) and four organisations (UIL, CISL, UGT and Podkrea) to discuss on the European Green Deal. The aim was to develop three out of the five competencies identified by the ETUI green competence framework approach (collective, systemic and prospective). This event followed a mid-September webinar called "the practice of green competence" during which participants first experienced the use of our green competence framework approach.

Watch [this video](#) to know more about ETUI's green competence framework

**Work time reduction and the climate crisis**

By Mehtap Akguc, senior researcher

In her recent talk during a conference on working time reduction and climate crisis, Professor Juliet Schor from Boston College emphasised that it is impossible to sufficiently decarbonise - say, aiming at reducing emissions by about 10 per cent annually, which is very ambitious - without reducing work time in developed countries. This is mainly because while the energy system transformation from fossil-fuel to clean renewable energy sources is indispensable for emissions reductions, it is not enough by itself.

[Read more](#)

**Social partners and the European Green Deal**

By Bela Galgoczi, senior researcher

The ETUC adopted a [resolution](#) on the European Commission’s new EU Adaptation Strategy (as part of the European Green Deal). The key demands state that the Strategy should:

- address the impact that climate change will have on working conditions and employment
- be legally binding and include a strong social dimension with a people-centred
approach
- provide for a strong and inclusive governance where workers and trade unions are involved
- include concrete policy measures that maintain jobs and protect workers’ health and safety
- include active labour market policies as well as reskilling and training to prevent job losses
- should guarantee sufficient investments in public services and infrastructures.

Read more

GreenReads: US elections analysis- Covid and climate policies - IEA Renewables Report 2020

Voices on the US Elections

Here are a few of the most interesting commentaries and analyses we found on the outcome of the US elections and its impact on workers and the Green New Deal.

MIT Technology Review has an extensive analysis on "what Biden will and won’t be able to achieve on climate change" (6 November).

Dani Rodrik, Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard University tries to draw some social conclusions of the Biden win and warns of the "rude awakening" awaiting the Democratic Party in 2024 if the Left does not balance its cultural identity policies with its traditional issues of social justice and good jobs for all. Read more

Publications

Pensions in the age of Covid-19
by David Natali
Pension policy is not safe from the potentially dramatic consequences of the pandemic. But in terms of pension politics, the pandemic also represents a window of opportunity to rethink the political debate on the future reform agenda. Download here

An overview of the 2020-2021 country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the social field, the impact of Covid-19
by Silvia Rainone
In 2020, country-specific recommendations (CSRs) have shifted more markedly in favour of strengthening workers' digital skills and providing adequate social protection. Download here

EU-western Balkans relations at the time of the Covid-19 crisis
by Bela Galgoczi (ed.)
This issue of the SEER Journal for Labour and Social Affairs in Eastern Europe for 2020 focuses on EU-western Balkans relations at the time of the Covid-19 pandemic, with a particular insights to the policy approaches in Croatia and Turkey. Download here

Upcoming green agenda
- 18 November: Offshore renewable energy
- 21-22 November: G20 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- 9 December: European climate pact, strategy for sustainable and smart mobility, Sustainability requirements for batteries in the EU

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Contributors: Willy De Backer, Bela Galgoczi, Mehtap Akguc

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Koning Albert II Laan 5
Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5
Brussels, 1210
Belgium

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