

Editorial

The inauguration of Joe Biden as the new American president has given the world reason to hope that the US will re-join the global effort to tackle climate change. And indeed, in his very first days of office he approved a series of measures that should bring climate concerns back onto the US political agenda. Among other measures, the Biden administration wants to review all oil and gas drilling on federal land, put a stop to fossil fuel subsidies, and transform the government's fleet of cars and trucks into electric vehicles. He also appointed John Kerry as the US special climate envoy. Kerry has already announced his ambition to set a target for reducing US greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 under the Paris Agreement and to host an international climate summit in the spring.

[Read the full editorial here](#)

Philippe Pochet, General Director ETUI

Publications



Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2020

All chapters of Social policy in the EU: state of play 2020 consider the consequences of the unfolding public health crisis. Covid-19's hijacking of the book had important implications for the contributors, whom we asked not only to analyse key developments in the EU social agenda during 2019 but also to describe the initial Covid-19-driven EU and domestic policies between January and July 2020, thereby pushing forward the book's time horizon by six months.

[Read more](#)

Time to close the gender pay gap

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected

Exposure to psychosocial risk factors in the gig economy

The 'gig economy' refers to a

women disproportionately and is likely to have adverse effects on gender equality. It is essential that efforts to promote gender equality be increased in order to ensure that hard-won progress in this area is not reversed.

[Read more](#)

market system in which companies or individual requesters hire workers to perform short assignments. These transactions are mediated through online labour platforms, either outsourcing work to a geographically dispersed crowd or allocating work to individuals in a specific area.

[Read more](#)

The French 'duty of vigilance' law

The Rana Plaza tragedy demonstrated the need to regulate companies which use subsidiaries, subcontractors and suppliers to carry out underpaid work, without consideration for core humanitarian principles, including trade union and workers' rights. Structures permitting companies to profit from such abusive practices should be replaced by a principle of company responsibility for their entire value chain.

[Read more](#)

Between and between: Integrating refugees into the EU labour market

This publication focuses on practices in the labour market integration of asylum seekers and refugees in the main EU reception states in the post-2015 period. It takes a comparative approach highlighting areas of good practice across the countries while also examining integration barriers.

[Read more](#)

Education

Training webinar for new EWC members

What should I do in a European Works Council (EWC)? What is the role of an EWC? How does the information and consultation rights work? These are some of the questions that new members of European works councils ask themselves. And sometimes they wait several months or even years before receiving training organised by their company. This is why the EWC Training team from the ETUI Education department has designed a webinar on 24 and 25 February at which 40 new European Works Council members from different countries and different companies will be trained over a day and a half in order to facilitate their integration into their European Works Council. This training is based on theoretical presentations, group work and role play. [Read more](#)

(Online) events

(For technical reasons, please always register with your personalised link which you have received in the event invitation from the ETUI)

3-5/02: Still possible to register: [ETUI/ETUC conference: towards a new socio-ecological contract](#)

16/02: [Labour law, climate change and the just transition](#)

17/02: [EduDays21 - Level Up! Validate and accredit learning](#)

24-25/02: [Strategic aspects of occupational safety and health litigation](#)

If you have missed our past webinars, please click on the links below to find more information and/or watch the recording:

12/01: [The EU facing the pandemic: from crisis to collective action](#)

19/01: [Trade union strategies to organise migrant workers in Europe](#)

22/01: [Gender equality and in-work poverty: which role for the EU?](#)

28/01: [Delivering the Green Deal: sustainable development in a reformed European Semester](#)

29/01: [Smile for the camera, you are being watched'. Workplace surveillance: enforcing workers' rights](#)

etui.podcast - voices on the world of work

The podcast offers new perspectives on ongoing research and education on social Europe, worker participation, health and safety, the wider labour movement and the world of work.

Season 2

#4 with Romuald Jagodzinski, [Benchmarking Working Europe, the impact of a pandemic](#)

Media

- La Libre, ["La question écologique est une question sociale et c'est une question d'inégalités"](#) (2 Feb 2021)
- Social Europe, [Time to act on pay transparency](#) (2 Feb 2021)

EU Today, EU criticised for "fuzzy" commitment to gender issues (15 Jan 2021)

- Le Monde, [La présidence portugaise de l'Union européenne veut relancer « l'Europe sociale »](#) (13 Jan 2021)
- Social Europe, [MEPs need to listen to more voices on artificial intelligence](#) (11 Jan 2021)
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