

#5 - March 2021

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A new socio-ecological contract and the three lessons for trade unions

The level of participation in the recent ETUI-ETUC conference, on the need for a new socio-ecological contract, was impressive. As was the quality of the diversified discussion instigated by the speakers and the questions from the audience. The urgency to discuss this topic is clear. From a trade union perspective, we take away at least three main lessons from this debate. First lesson... [read](#)



A conference on "towards a new socio-ecological contract" – and now?

The conference organised at the beginning of February 2021 by ETUI-ETUC constituted a focal point for its future activities. The aim of this event was to promote the ETUI as an open platform for discussing the social issues involved in the ecological and climate transition. [read](#)



Hans Bruyninckx: "We need to build an environment that delivers human health, wellbeing and social cohesion"

Despite the shock and socio-economic impacts of Covid-19, it is impressive that the 'EU's long-term environment and climate ambitions have remained unchanged.

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The need to go beyond GDP to measure wellbeing and social progress

The topic of wellbeing, measuring progress and the need to go beyond GDP have been raised by various speakers and panellists throughout the ETUI-ETUC conference "Towards a new socio-ecological contract" last month. The event included a dedicated panel to reflect on the multidimensionality of wellbeing, its measurement, its interlinkages with various policy domains and how it is (or should be) integrated into broader policymaking within the quest towards a new socio-ecological contract.

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Trade union reactions at the European level

On the 24th February 2021 the European Commission published its new Adaptation Strategy designed to increase the resilience of the EU against the consequences of climate change. The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) points out that the new Strategy does not properly address the effects of climate change on the world of work and does not sufficiently consider the social and gender dimension of adaptation. [read](#)

GreenReads:

How Green is global recovery spending? - Just transition in the aviation sector - National plans fail to halt climate emergency

The world's governments have been spending more than 14.6 trillion dollars on 'rescue and recovery' measures to deal with the economic and social devastation wrought by COVID-19. But only 18% of that money can be considered as 'green'. [read](#)

Recent publications, training and events

- The four 'I's of a new socio-ecological contract. A 'socio-ecological contract' has emerged as a way to conceive together the transitions

needed to steer out of today's crises to safer harbour. But what does it entail? <https://www.etui.org/news/four-new-socio-ecological-contract>

- What roles for trade unionists in greening workplaces? When it comes to changing our personal behaviour to cope with climate urgency, our workplaces are the best place to begin with. This training session explores the various roles trade unionists can play in greening workplaces.
<https://www.etui.org/training/what-roles-trade-unionists-greening-workplaces>
- ETUC-FES Recommendations for engaging young people in trade unions: The guide explores existing good practices and new ways how to stop the trade union membership decline which is an existing threat in 27 out of 31 analysed countries
<https://www.etuc.org/en/publication/engaging-young-people-trade-unions>
- Watch the full sessions of the latest ETUI-ETUC Conference on a new social-ecological contract here
<https://www.etui.org/events/towards-new-socio-ecological-contract>
- Watch the 6 min zapping summary via [etui.org/ZJo](https://www.etui.org/ZJo)

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