

# Enforcing workers' rights in Europe through strategic litigation

**20 October 2023 (10:00 – 17:30)**

**Interpretation: English, French, Italian, German, Spanish**

*In-person only, House of Labour, Frankfurt am Main  
Eschersheimer Landstraße 155/157*

This event will explore the interpretative and creative potential of strategic litigation to reinforce the position of (vulnerable) workers in the EU. Trade unionists, lawyers and labour law scholars will present and discuss practical examples of successful proceedings before the European Court of Justice and national labour courts in various European countries.

Several trends are currently reshaping the world of work and calling into question the efficacy of existing labour law instruments in pursuing their protective and emancipatory function vis-à-vis workers. Digital technology, the platformisation of labour, fissuring tendencies and an increasing reliance on service contracts, as well as the growing share of migrant and vulnerable workers in the EU, all have concrete implications for employment rights, the quality of working conditions and the reliability of corporate actors. Is the current EU labour law *acquis* sufficiently effective at allocating rights and obligations to the important parties of labour relations? And how can strategic litigation support the adaptation of the current legal framework to be more worker-centric?

## PROGRAMME

9.30 – 10.00 Registration

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**10.00 – 10.45** **Introducing the theme**

- **Thomas Schmidt** (labour lawyer, ELDH Co-Secretary-General): *Welcome speech*
  - **Isabelle Schömann** (ETUC Deputy General Secretary): *The importance of strategic litigation for trade unions*
  - **Klaus Lörcher** (former legal advisor to the ETUC): *Strategic litigation in the framework of effective enforcement. New directives, new approaches?*
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**10.45 – 12.30** **Panel 1: Platform work and digital technology**

- **Christina Hiessl** (BOFZAP Professor of Labour Law, KU Leuven)
- **Mariagrazia Lamannis** (Università degli Studi Magna Grecia, Catanzaro)
- **Carlo De Marchis** (labour lawyer, Rome)
- **Stephane Teyssier** (labour lawyer, Lyon)
- Q&A, discussion

Chair: **Silvia Rainone** (senior researcher, ETUI)

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12.30 – 13.30 *Lunch break*

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13.30 – 15.15

**Panel 2: Working time**

- **Armando-Garcia Lopez** (Coordinator of legal services for the Federation of Workers' Commissions Services, CCOO-Servicios, and lawyer, Madrid)
- **Johanna Wenckebach** (Professor, Scientific Director of the Hugo Sinzheimer Institute for Labour Law HIS – Hans-Böckler Foundation)
- **Fatma Arda Bicz / Ceren Uysal** (lawyers, Istanbul)
- **Alan Bogg** (Professor of Labour Law, University of Bristol)
- Q&A, discussion

Chair: **Rüdiger Helm** (labour lawyer, Munich)

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15.15 – 15.30

*Coffee break*

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15.30 – 17.15

**Panel 3: Migrant, temporary and vulnerable workers**

- **Dimitrios Vassiliou** (lawyer, Athens)
- **Ernesto Klengel** (Researcher, Hugo Sinzheimer Institute for Labour Law HIS - Hans-Böckler Foundation)
- **Zane Rasnaca** (Senior researcher, ETUI)
- **Angelika Kapeller** (Head of the Trade Union Centre for Revision and European Law, DGB)
- Q&A, discussion

Chair: **tbc**

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17.15 - 17.30

**Final discussion and closing remarks**

Moderator: **Michael Schubert** (labour lawyer, Freiburg)

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*Drinks*

**Please note that on 21 October 2023, 10.00 – 12.30, the European Lawyers for Workers Network will be holding its annual meeting in the same venue. Conference participants are welcome to also take part in this meeting.**

**Conference organisers:**

- European Lawyers for Workers Network (ELW)
- European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)
- European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights (ELDH)
- Vereinigung Demokratischer Juristinnen und Juristen e.V. (VDJ)

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- Hugo Sinzheimer Institut für Arbeitsrecht (HSI) of the Hans-Böckler Foundation (HBS)
- Vereinte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft (ver.di)



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