



Editorial

The 14th Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation, which took place from 21 to 24 May in Vienna with about 1000 trade unionists from all over the European Union, the European Economic Area and EU candidate countries, has been a significant Congress for the trade union movement. It provided the occasion for fruitful debates about new forms of employment, the role of youth in the trade union movement, the future of work - with a trade union rep from Foodora in Cologne – and about climate change ... Prestigious guests were there to enrich the debate, among them Joseph Stiglitz, recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences. Stiglitz argued for a better balance between the taxation of capital and work and pleaded in favor of the integration of socio-environmental indicators in an alternative GDP measure. As he put it: “youth unemployment today is a bigger problem than inflation”.

Special attention was paid to gender equality, making this the first ever ETUC Congress with an almost 50/50 proportion of male and female delegates. The ETUC reiterated its demand for follow-up action on the European Pillar of Social Rights initiative and discussed the possibility of having a renewed Social Contract for Europe. All the demands and pledges of the European trade union movement have been put together in the Manifesto adopted at the Congress.

At the fringe of the Congress the ETUI organized several interactive events on: workplace democracy; just transition; and foresight for the trade unions, and launched two books - The future of Europe and the trilogy on Collective Bargaining in Europe. In addition, the 2019 Brian Bercusson award winner Pieter Pecinovsky presented his PhD thesis on the problematic relationship of European economic policy and fundamental social rights. At the prominently placed and often frequented ETUI stand, the delegates and guests of the Congress could receive information about our work and get copies of the many recent publications on the platform economy, young worker engagement, trade union membership and better regulation. They could also try their luck on the ETUI quiz developed by the Education department, get answers on all their questions about Works Councils, and enjoy historical trade union posters at the ETUI exhibition “Bread and Roses”.

One of the highlights at the ETUI stand was the signing session of Professor Joseph Stiglitz’s new book “People, Power and Profits”. Another stand nearby, co-organised by the ETUI and the Hans Böckler Foundation, showcased the research of the trade union related research institutes members of the TURI network, which attracted many visitors.

Altogether, we look back at a very lively and well attended Congress which has set a new momentum for the trade union movement in Europe and for the ETUI, in particular.

Philippe Pochet, General director ETUI

Publications

À la recherche de



l'Europe sociale

The European project is in crisis. The Brexit vote in the United Kingdom is a spectacular symptom of this. However, since the 1957 Treaty of Rome, the close integration of the Member States has always been a priority of the European Union. An economic integration was often promoted at the expense of the social aspect of the European project.

Read more and watch 1 min videos on each chapter

What has the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union delivered for workers?

This Policy Brief assesses the impact of the European Union's Charter of Fundamental Rights, ten years on. The Charter is intended to guide EU institutions, particularly the CJEU, in recognising and promoting the social rights of EU citizens and workers.

Read more

Unions are only as old as they feel

This Policy Brief discusses trade union strategies towards engaging young workers in union campaigns or organisational structures, as well as initiatives from young workers themselves directed at gaining a collective voice at work. The brief is based on a three year research project and includes a number of case studies of young worker engagement, as well as some suggestions on strategy for trade unions as they try to reach out to younger workers.

Read more

Anticipating change, staying relevant: why trade unions should do foresight

Like any organisation, trade unions have to navigate a complex and interconnected environment where they face constant and evolving social, economic, environmental



and technological realities. Foresight can help trade unions by shedding light on 'blind spots', enable them to make better decisions and shape different possible futures.

[Read more and watch video](#)

Legislative implementation of European social partner agreements

This Working Paper analyses the development of the interpretation that the European Commission has given to the TFEU provision concerning mechanisms for extensions of collective agreements. The paper examines how the Commission has reinterpreted these provision and the challenges this poses for the social partners.

[Read more](#)

The European Union versus the Better Regulation Agenda

This report critically examines progress on the European Union's 'Better Regulation Agenda'. Although originally intended to simplify the EU's legislation and improve its quality, there are suspicions that the Agenda has been hijacked to be used as a tool to make companies more competitive.

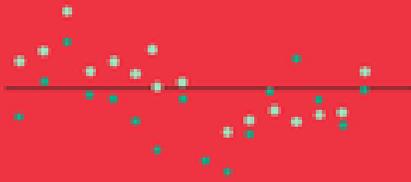
[Read more](#)

Bleak prospects: mapping trade union membership in Europe since 2000

This report details shifts in trade union membership and density in 32 European countries since 2000, with a particular focus on the age structure within trade unions. The report uncovers substantial variations in unionisation rates, with the

Bleak prospects: mapping trade union membership in Europe since 2000

Kurt Vansteenkiste



etui.

least unionised countries in the 2000s having largely stayed at the bottom of the 'unionisation league' in the 2010s and countries with higher incidences maintaining their positions further up.

[Read more](#)

Convergence to fair wage growth?

This Working Paper addresses the issue of 'fair' wage growth over the last few decades. It assesses whether growth in real compensation is systematically associated with labour productivity growth and, if so, whether the two have 'decoupled' in recent years.

[Read more](#)

Socialising the European Semester?

This Working Paper surveys the extent to which Member States comply with CSRs relating to social policy. This provides a yardstick by which to measure their compliance with both the European semester and adherence to the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

[Read more](#)

The future of Europe

This collected volume aims to inform and advance the debate on how to achieve a more social and sustainable Europe. Its four chapters and a conclusion address the nature of Europe, the future of the European Union and the political and economic development of the continent. The book argues that strong and assertive trade unions are the most reliable representatives of working people; however they need to change and evolve in order to be able to combat Europe's growing populism.

[Download here the German version](#)

[Read more](#)



Recent events



ETUI's major presence at ETUC Vienna Congress

The 2019 Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) took place in Vienna between 20-24 May 2019 (#ETUC19) and the ETUI had a major presence there with a number of events and publication launches.

[Read more](#)



Brian Bercusson Award 2019 goes to Dr. Pieter Pecinovsky

On 21 May 2019, at the 14th statutory ETUC Congress in Vienna, the Brian Bercusson Award 2019 was awarded to Dr. Pieter Pecinovsky, legal counsel with the law firm 'Van Olmen & Wynant' (Brussels), for his PhD thesis entitled 'EU economic governance and the right to collective bargaining - a legal research on the problematic relationship of European economic policy and fundamental social rights'.

[Read more](#)

Save the date

13/06/2019: [Implementing and enforcing the European Pillar of Social Rights \(EPSR\): Quo Vadis?](#)

11/06/2019: EESC conference: [The sustainable economy we need](#) with the participation of Philippe Pochet, ETUI General Director

Registration open: 3-4/12/2019: [The future of health and safety in Europe. 30 years after the EU Framework Directive on health and safety at work, what's the way forward?](#)

[If you wish to receive invitations for ETUI events, please register here.](#)

Training



ETUI Education department video

What is the ETUI Education department ?

[See it here in our new video !](#)

The course programme for 2019-2020 is here

The courses and their descriptions are available on [our main training page](#) while our course programme provides a list of the courses planned in 2019-2020.

[Read more](#)



Training on Strategic thinking for trade unions

In a world of rapid change trade unions should adapt and anticipate. Strategic thinking is challenging conventional thinking, and we all know that it can help us to develop capacities to address future challenges.

[Read more](#)

New in Reforms Watch

[Croatia: trade unions call for a referendum in a '67 is too much' campaign, 16/05](#)

[Bulgaria: more labour market policy reform and income convergence needed, according to the IMF, 16/05](#)

[Finland: winning centre-left wants to preserve welfare system and roll back unpopular](#)

labour market reforms, 16/05

[Spain: extension of longer paternity leave entered into force on 1 April 2019](#), 16/05

[Latvia: unions present program for the Baltic Sea Trade Union Network \(BASTUN\)](#), 16/05

In the media

- NRC, [Marian Schaapman: "Als je maar lang genoeg traineert, geeft iemand wel op"](#) (31 May 2019)
- LSE Europpblog, [Posted workers are falling through the cracks of protection in both Western and Eastern Europe](#) (17 May 2019)
- L'Avenir, [En Belgique, la popularité des syndicats ne faiblit pas](#) (17 May 2019)
- Wiskeys, [Vakbonden houden stand in België](#) (17 May 2019)
- euobserver, [Trade union membership drops 13.9 percent in Europe](#) (15 May 2019)
- CeskaTelevize, [Hostý makroekonom Tomáš Sedláček a ekonomický analytik Evropského odborového institutu v Bruselu Jan Drahokoupil](#) (13 May 2019)
- Financial Times, [EU workers miss out on gains of economic recovery](#) (07 May 2019)
- Dagens Arena, [Rapport: Jobbklyftan växer inom EU](#) (04 May 2019)

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