



European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
Confédération européenne des syndicats (CES)

ETUC NEWSLETTER

N°21
November 2007



Dear readers,

Public services have been high on the agenda this month. The Commission published its communication on the internal market in the 21st century, which unfortunately failed to take account of our proposal for a framework directive, a point which we deeply regret. Let us remember that the mayors of ten European capital cities backed this idea in a joint statement. We regret that the Commission has missed the opportunity to guarantee sufficient respect for the role of public services. We reiterated our position to the President of the Commission when we handed in our petition, reminding him of the importance of the social dimension of the internal market. It is no good merely paying lip service to this social dimension, it needs to be followed up by some action. Furthermore, the Communication does not call into question the benefits of liberalisation and privatisation, which is why we have asked the Commission to conduct its promised analysis of the consequences of liberalisation, and in particular its effects on employment.

However, better news is that the Commission has signalled a revision of the directive on European Works Councils. We also welcome the agreement concluded by the new European company BASF SE, based in Ludwigshafen, on worker participation. This agreement is a pioneer for greater co-decision in Europe.

In the same vein, the Steering Committee has confirmed the great political importance of the judgements by the European Court of Justice in the Laval and Viking cases, expected next month.

The next EU Employment and Social Affairs Council in early December should be addressing the two issues we are closely monitoring: the directives on working time and on temporary workers.

John Monks
General Secretary

Figure of the month

15%

Women were earning on average 15% less than men in the European Union in 2005.
(Source: European Commission)

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Sign our petition for high-quality
public services, accessible to all

www.petitionpublicservice.eu



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ETUC in action

SOCIAL DIALOGUE

European social partners' increase efforts for gender equality

19/11/2007 – To coincide with the [Closing Conference for the European Year of Equality of Opportunities for All in Lisbon](#), the European social partners ETUC, BUSINESSEUROPE, UEAPME and CEEP presented their second activity report showing initiatives taken to implement [their joint strategy for gender equality](#). This report describes how the four priorities - addressing gender roles, promoting women in decision-making, supporting work-life balance and tackling the gender pay gap - have been followed up at European, national, cross-industry, sectoral and company levels.



[Joint ETUC-BUSINESSEUROPE-UEAPME-CEEP press release](#)



[European social partners' report](#)

CAMPAIGNS – ETUC

Public services: mayors of ten European capital cities support ETUC petition

09/11/2007 – On the initiative of [John Monks and of Freddy Thielemans, Mayor of the City of Brussels](#), the mayors of ten European capital cities (**Brussels, Paris, London, Luxembourg, Lisbon, Sofia, Amsterdam, Tallinn, Vienna and Nicosia**) have signed a [declaration for "quality public services, accessible to all"](#). In response to recent privatisations that threaten to marginalise specific areas, the mayors of these cities supported the [ETUC petition calling on the Commission to propose European framework legislation on public services](#) in Europe. Within the context of this campaign, **John Monks and Carola Fischbach-Pyttel**, General Secretary of the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU), presented a petition [to José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, with more than half a million signatures](#).



[Picture of the meeting](#)

CAMPAIGNS – OTHERS

Campaign “Defend journalism” - European Action Day



On 5 November the [European Federation of Journalists](#), affiliated to the ETUC, organised a European Action Day under the slogan 'Stand up for Journalism', in defence of journalists' rights and to promote quality journalism.

The ETUC supported this campaign, highlighting the social and professional crisis affecting current-day journalism.

MAJOR MEETINGS – CONFERENCES

ETUC Steering Committee

15/11/2007 – The ETUC Steering Committee met in Brussels. The **revision of the European Works Council Directive** and the ETUC response to the **forthcoming European Court of Justice judgements on the Laval and Viking cases** were at the top of the agenda.

WORKERS' INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION

EWC Directive revision in the Commission work programme for 2008

The ETUC is pleased that European Commission President **José Manuel Barroso**, in the **European Parliament debate on the legislative work programme 2008**, confirmed his **intention to submit a proposal to amend the European Works Councils (EWC) Directive**. For a long time [the ETUC has made concrete proposals for the revision](#), in order to better equip EWCs to manage change in a socially responsible way.



[ETUC press release](#)

More worker consultation in Europe with BASF SE

22/11/2007 – BASF SE, a new European company (SE) with more than 60,000 employees in 22 EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland, **has concluded a major agreement on workers' participation**. **Guaranteeing the participation** of

representatives from the European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers' Federation ([EMCEF](#)) on the BASF *Europa Betriebsrat* (Works council) and the SE supervisory board, **this agreement marks the most significant step forward so far towards broad, compulsory worker participation in a European company**.



[ETUC press release](#)

Trade Union Agenda

November - December 2007

05-07/11/2007	Eurocop Congress (Brussels)	
07/11/2007	Social Partners' joint press conference : joint analysis of key challenges facing European Labour markets (Brussels)	Press conference Agenda
12-14/11/2007	BNS Congress (Bucharest)	
15/11/2007	ETUC Steering Committee (Brussels)	
20/11/2007	Extraordinary meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee bureau (Lisbon)	
28-29/11/2007	Eurocadres General Assembly (Brussels)	
30/11/2007	EAKL Congress (Tallin)	
04-05/12/2007	European Federation of Building and Woodworkers General Assembly (Luxembourg)	
05/12/2007	ETUC Steering Committee (Brussels)	
05-06/12/2007	ETUC Executive Committee (Brussels)	
06-09/12/2007	TURK-IS Congress (Ankara)	
10-12/12/2007	UNIO General Assembly (Oslo)	
12/12/2007	Meeting of the Group II « Workers » of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
15/12/2007	Travail Suisse Congress (Berne)	
18/12/2007	ETUC press conference on « Laval » and « Viking » cases (Brussels)	

Focus on the EU and trade union positions

ETUC demands a Euro area interest rate cut

08/11/2007 – As the European Central Bank (ECB) board met in November, the **ETUC published a [report](#) making the case for cutting interest rates in the Euro area.**

Without such a move, the European economy will have difficulty over the coming months handling the shocks generated by recent interest rates hikes, the progressive Euro appreciation against the dollar, and fall-out from the sub-prime crisis. To avoid this, the **ECB should intervene to cut interest rates now**. Thus the ETUC regarded the decision not to change interest rates as disappointing.



[ETUC press release](#)

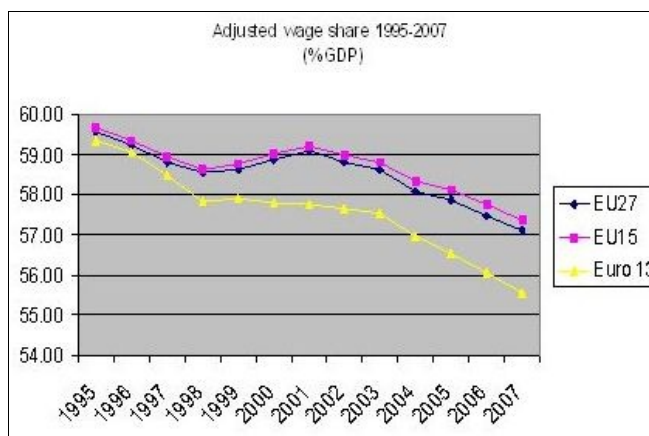


[ECB press release](#)

EU needs real solutions to excessive wage moderation

13/11/2007 – For a number of years, the European Union **has been experiencing stagnating real wages and excessive wage moderation**. Systemic wage moderation **undermines domestic demand in the European internal market**.

Even if Eurogroup finance ministers are aware of this situation, their **proposed solution of 'profit sharing' is risky, because it will substantially benefit 'strong insiders' (like managers and executives), with no real impact on average workers.**



[ETUC press release](#)



[More information about Eurogroup](#)

EPA negotiations: Commission should do the right thing

19/11/2007 – As the EU [General Affairs and External Relations Council](#) met, the ETUC and International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) repeated their call for an extension of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) negotiating deadline. Many countries are not in a position to sign these agreements.

In the **view of the ETUC and ITUC, it is time to stop the deadline game and look for creative solutions to the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries' development needs.**



[ETUC press release](#)

An internal market without a social dimension?

20/11/2007 – The European Commission defined a package **of initiatives aimed at modernising the European single market**. For many months the **ETUC has been calling for a framework directive dedicated to protecting public services**.

Consequently the sense of disappointment was very strong. In rejecting the idea of a framework directive, the Commission has missed an opportunity to ensure that public services are fully safeguarded. Although it announced plans for a new Social Agenda, the Commission's commitment to the social dimension of the internal market seems to be just a formality.

The internal market should not bring gains for business alone, but must also benefit workers.



[ETUC press release](#)



[Commission press release](#)

Laval and Viking cases: ETUC places its hopes in the ECJ judgements



On next December, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) **will rule on the Laval and Viking cases**. The outcome of these cases is fundamental for the future of Social Europe.

The European trade union movement believes that **the industrial action taken in both cases was in full conformity with the principles and requirements of EC law. It was necessary to defend the principles of non-discrimination and of equal pay for work of equal value regardless of nationality.**

The ETUC will organise a press conference in Brussels on 18 December following the rulings.



[ETUC press release](#)



[ETUC website section dedicated to the Laval and Viking cases](#)

Flexicurity: European Parliament in favour of more balanced principles

29/11/2007 – The plenary assembly of the European parliament adopted by a large majority **a report on common principles of flexicurity**. The key flexicurity principles are, among others, the promotion of stable employment relationships, action against abusive practices in non-standard contracts, gender equality, the work-life balance and the social dialogue. **The Commission and the Council should take this into full account when they come to agree on European principles of flexicurity.**



[ETUC press release](#)



[European Parliament press release](#)

The ETUC for an ambitious post-Kyoto agreement

30/11/2007 – United Nations will organise in Bali from 3 to 14 December a conference on climate change with the aim of deciding the launch of negotiations on a global and ambitious agreement post 2012.

The ETUC calls for a firm and ambitious commitment from all the developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30% for 2020.

The new agreement must include a dimension dedicated to the intermeshing of climate change and employment policies.



[ETUC press release](#)



[More information on Bali conference](#)

EU Agenda

November - December 2007

05-06/11/2007	EuroMed Ministerial Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Lisbon)	Meeting Agenda
07-09/11/2007	Joint EU/US Conference on Health and Safety at Work (Cascais)	Conference Agenda
08-09/11/2007	Justice and Home Affairs Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
12/11/2007	Eurogroup (Brussels)	
13/13/2007	ECOFIN Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
15-16/11/2007	Education, Youth and Culture Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
19-20/11/2007	General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) - Including Defense and Development Ministers (Brussels)	Council Agenda
22/11/2007	EU-ASEAN Summit	Summit Agenda
22-23/11/2007	Competitiveness Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
23/11/2007	ECOFIN Council (Budget) (Brussels)	Council Agenda
23-24/11/2007	Informal Meeting on Territorial Cohesion and Regional Policy (Ponta Delgada)	Meeting Agenda
28/11/2007	EU-China Summit (China)	Summit Agenda
29-30/11/2007	Conference on Social Dialogue in Europe (Lisbon)	Conference Agenda
30/11/2007	EU-India Summit (India)	Summit Agenda
03/12/2007	Transports, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
03/12/2007	Eurogroup (Brussels)	
04/12/2007	ECOFIN Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
05-06/12/2007	Employment, Social Policies, Health and Consumer Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
06-07/12/2007	Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA) (Brussels)	Council Agenda
08-09/12/2007	UE-Africa Summit (Lisbon)	Summit Agenda
10/12/2007	EU-Russia Troika (Brussels)	Meeting Agenda
10-11/12/2007	General Affairs and External Relations Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
10-11/12/2007	Ministerial Troika EU/USA (Washington)	Meeting Agenda
12/12/2007	Signature of the Charter of Fundamental Rights (Strasbourg)	
12-13/12/2007	Plenary Session at the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
13/12/2007	Signing ceremony of the Treaty of Lisbon (Lisbon)	
13-14/12/2007	European Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
20/12/2007	Environment Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda

You may be interested

READERS' CONTRIBUTION

A blog for union renewal

Following our call for contributions, Dutch FNV trade union representatives informed us of the recent set up of a blog for union renewal : <http://unionrenewal.blogspot.com>.

The aim of this blog is multiple:

- 1) **promoting best trade union practices exchanges** to face globalisation challenges;
- 2) **improving the participation of migrants and young people in trade unions**;
- 3) **responding to the problems raised by** the increasing in **outsourcing**.

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EVENTS

A new documentation centre for the ETUI-REHS



After renovation works, the European Trade Union Institute for Research, Education and Health and Safety (ETUI-REHS) will **inaugurate its new documentation centre**, on 5 December.

More than 19,000 publications and over two hundred specialist periodicals are available for consultation.

More information: doccent@etui-rehs.org

SPEECHES AND CONFERENCES

Conference on trade defence instruments

08/11/2007 – In cooperation with some European trade union and employer federations, ETUC organised the **conference "[Competitiveness in a global economy - A challenge to trade discipline?](#)"**. John Monks confirmed the need for **the EU to keep the trade defence instruments** and drew attention to European trade union movement concerns **about the reform proposal advanced by the Commission**.



[John Monks speech](#)

For a change of policy on temporary agency workers

26/11/2007 – In a speech given at the House of Commons in London, John Monks **called on British Labour Members of Parliament to demand a change of the UK Government position about European legislation designed to protect temporary agency workers** before the EU Employment Council meeting on 5 December.



[John Monks speech](#)

You may be interested

NEW NOMINATIONS

Renewal of the Women's Committee Praesidium and of the IRTUC Coordination Committee

The ETUC Women's Committee **has recently started a new mandate.**

Claudia Menne (DGB - Germany) replaced **Aitanga Giraldi** (CGIL - Italy) as vice-president. **Belén Morales Pacheco** (CC.OO. - Spain) and **Vera Morgenstern** (European Federation of Public Service Unions) were elected members of the Committee Praesidium. **Viviane Goergen** (LCGB - Luxembourg) and **Danuta Wojdat** (Solidarnosc - Poland) remain respectively President and Vice-president and Jette Lykke Jensen (LO - Denmark) remains Praesidium member.

During its meeting of 6 November, the Coordination Committee **of the Interregional trade union councils (IRTUC)**, elected a new **President: Manfred Klöpper**, President of IRTUC WENN Regio (Germany – Netherlands).

PUBLICATIONS

Reconciling professional, private and family life

The ETUC produced a new **publication on reconciling professional, private and family life.**

This publication is available in [French](#) and [English](#).



Publications – recent Commission documents

The following reports are now available::

- [Report on competitiveness](#) (05/11)
- [Autumn economic forecasts 2007](#) (09/11)
- [Instruments for a modernised single market policy](#) (20/11)
- [The EU Economy: 2007 Review](#) (21/11)
- Report ["Employment in Europe 2007"](#) (26/11)

The European Commission plans to issue these publications in December 2007:

- **Launch of the new EU Job Mobility Action Plan 2007-2010** (10/12)
- **Strategic report on the renewed Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs and its accompanying measures** (11/12)

The ETUC in pictures



John Monks presented to José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, the ETUC's petition for high-quality public services, which has already attracted 510,000 signatures (Photo: European Commission)

Please pass this newsletter on to your colleagues and contacts

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