

[ETUC newsletter]



Contents

- 2 ETUC in action
- 3 Trade union agenda
- 4 EU agenda
- 5 Focus on the EU and trade union positions
- 6 You may be interested

Figure of the month

79 million poor people in Europe

In 2007, 79 million people, representing 16% of the population were under the poverty line in the European Union. This number does not take into account the effects of the crisis.

(Source: Alternatives économiques/Eurostat)



Dear Colleagues,

As we had predicted, the autumn is turning out to be bleak on the employment front. Unemployment continues to climb and brings the social consequences we know too well.

We are hearing from many political leaders and economists that the crisis is behind us, that there are more and more signs of a return to growth. We cannot share this optimism, however, considering the worsening employment situation in all countries.

For the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), what this outward show of optimism masks is the temptation of a return to business as usual, to avoid a thorough reform of the economic and financial system.

At the G20 summit in Pittsburgh, we urged the world's political leaders to take measures to regulate international finance and to ensure that citizens receive their fair share of the profits of growth. We will be extremely vigilant when it comes to making sure that the commitments made in Pittsburgh are actually implemented.

The European Union must not shirk its responsibilities either.

During the debate on the reappointment of Mr Barroso as head of the European Commission, we asked the new Parliament for a clear commitment and guarantees on social issues. In his speech on 15 September before the European Parliament, Mr Barroso declared that he wished to propose changes on posted workers. We intend to make certain that this announcement is followed by concrete actions.

John Monks
General Secretary



European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5 | B-1210 Bruxelles (Belgique)

Telephone: +32 (0)2 224 04 11 | Fax: +32 (0)2 224 04 54

E-mail: media@etuc.org | www.etuc.org



[ETUC in action]

OTHER CAMPAIGNS

October 7, World Day for Decent Work



After last year's success, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) is organising the second edition of the **World Day for Decent Work (WDDW)** that will take place on **October 7**. ETUC fully supports this initiative and will participate in the campaign. In the context of an economic crisis with mass unemployment, decent work must be at the centre of government actions to bring back economic growth and build a new global economy that puts people first.

[WDDW web site](#)



'Europeans for financial reform' Campaign

21/09/2009 – The coalition of progressive forces 'Europeans for financial reform', of which ETUC is a member, launched officially the campaign '[Regulate Global Finance Now!](#)'. The aim of this campaign is to promote a reform of the world financial system which serves the public interest, prioritises sustainable development and promotes social justice.

MAJOR MEETINGS – CONFERENCES – PROJECTS

ETUC Steering Committee

17/09/2009 – ETUC Steering Committee met in Brussels. The economic and social crisis as well as financial regulation on the eve of the G20 Pittsburgh meeting were the main topics of the meeting.

Beyond the crisis: **developing sustainable alternatives**

10–11/09/2009 – ETUC and the European Trade Union Institute for research (ETUI) organised in Brussels the conference 'Beyond the crisis: developing sustainable alternatives', the main aim of which was stimulating reflection on the reorientation of some key elements of the European economic and social model after the crisis. Several political and trade union leaders as well as academic representatives took part in the conference.

[Conference Programme](#)

Tackling the impact of the crisis **through effective workers participation and stronger transnational trade union coordination**

The current economic crisis is having major impact on the labour market in Europe.

There is a huge increase in unemployment: according to latest expectations, in relation with current drops in production, at least 20% of the European workforce is at direct risk of losing their jobs.

An other undeniable consequence of the current economic crisis is the accelerating pace of company restructuring which represents a major challenge for workers representation, European Works Councils and trade unions, especially in transnational companies.

All the sectors of the economy will have to deal, very often in difficult conditions, with restructuring measures in their various forms: reorganisation of production, relocation, mergers, take-overs, outsourcing of activities, dismissals and mass redundancies.

In addition, due to the high interdependence of the economy, the supply industries will be affected significantly by other factors, such as climate change, that will have a greater impact on company policies.

ETUC in partnership with seven European Industry Federations ([EMF](#), [EFFAT](#), [ETUF-TCL](#), [EFBWW](#), [EMCEF](#),



[ETUC in action]

[EPSU and ETF](#) will develop a substantial project on “Multinational company restructuring” which has been accepted by the European Commission. Through this project ETUC and the European Industry Federations will identify companies which are facing restructuring measures due to the crisis in order to support workers representatives and European works councils and to strengthen transnational trade union cooperation.

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen employees' participation at European level and to enhance employees' influence on company' restructuring measures to ensure a socially responsible restructuring and to stop job losses.

[For more information, please visit the SDA web site](#)

Presentation of the Spring Alliance Manifesto



28/09/2009 – At the conference ‘[Putting People and Planet first: EU leadership for a social and green strategy post 2010](#)’, the Spring Alliance, a participatory movement of which ETUC is member*, presented its [Manifesto](#). The Spring Alliance's objective is to influence the debate on the next EU strategy to be adopted by the next Spring European Council in March 2010.

**The Spring Alliance is a participatory movement created by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and Social Platform. The Spring Alliance was later joined by the European NGO confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD).*

[Trade Union agenda]

September – October 2009

14-17/09/2009	TUC Congress (Liverpool)	
17/09/2009	ETUC Steering Committee (Brussels)	
28/09/2009	Spring Alliance Conference ‘Put People and Planet First’ (Brussels)	Conference Programme
30/09/2009	Meeting of the Group II ‘Workers’ of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
05/10/2009	ETUC Conference ‘Climate change, new industrial policies and exiting the crisis’ (London)	Conference Programme
07/10/2009	World Day for Decent Work	
20/10/2009	ETUC Steering Committee (Stockholm)	
20-21/10/2009	ETUC Executive Committee (Stockholm)	
20-21/10/2009	EFFAT Congress (Berlin)	Congress Programme



[EU Agenda]

September – October 2009

02/09/2009	Informal ECOFIN Ministers' Lunch (Brussels)	Meeting Agenda
04-05/09/2009	Informal Meeting of Foreign Ministers (Stockholm)	Meeting Agenda
10-11/09/2009	EU-South Africa Summit (Cape Town)	Meeting Agenda
14-15/09/2009	General Affairs and External Relations Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
14-17/09/2009	Plenary Session at the European Parliament (Strasbourg)	
17/09/2009	Informal European Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
21/09/2009	Justice and Home Affairs Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
23-24/09/2009	Informal Meeting of Education Ministers (Göteborg)	Meeting Agenda
24-25/09/2009	Competitiveness Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
24-25/09/2009	G-20 Summit (Pittsburgh)	Summit Agenda
30/09-01/10/2009	Plenary Session at European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
01/10/2009	Eurogroup Meeting (Göteborg)	Meeting Agenda
01-02/10/2009	Informal Meeting of Finance Ministers (Göteborg)	Meeting Agenda
06/10/2009	EU-Brazil Summit (Stockholm)	Summit Agenda
07-08/10/2009	Mini-Plenary Session at the European Parliament (Brussels)	
08-09/10/2009	Transports, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
12/10/2009	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
14-16/10/2009	Informal Meeting of Competitiveness Ministers (Umeå)	Meeting Agenda
19-22/10/2009	Plenary Session at the European Parliament (Strasbourg)	
19/10/2009	Eurogroup Meeting (Luxembourg)	Meeting Agenda
20/10/2009	ECOFIN Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
21/10/2009	Environment Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
23/10/2009	Justice and Home Affairs Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
26-27/10/2009	General Affairs and External Relations Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
29/10/2009	Tripartite Social Summit (Brussels)	
29-30/10/2009	European Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda



[Focus on the EU and trade union positions]

G20 in Pittsburgh: workers must get fair share of economic growth benefits

24/09/2009 – On the occasion of the [G20 meeting in Pittsburgh](#) (24–25 September), the aim of which was to discuss global financial imbalances and find a global compact for growth and jobs, ETUC called on political leaders to take **strong action on effective financial market regulation** and to **tackle unemployment and rising inequalities**.

For the European trade union movement, this global agreement has to lead to action **to stop the ongoing ‘War against Labour’**, by upgrading the role of trade unions and collective bargaining **to provide workers with a fair share of the benefits of economic growth**.

[ETUC press release](#)

[G20 press release](#)

Re-election of M Barroso: ETUC demands guarantees on social issues

16/09/2009 – Following the **re-election of José Manuel Barroso as head of the European Commission**, the European trade union movement demanded a commitment and **guarantees on social issues**, notably on the **revision of the Posting of Workers Directive**, from the new President.

As reminded after the [publication of the political guidelines](#) and after [M Barroso’s hearings with political groups in the European Parliament](#), ETUC demanded a **new Social Deal** centred on a wide Economic Recovery Plan, a more effective EU financial regulation of financial institutions and actions to strengthen workers’ and union rights, in particular by adopting a **Social Progress Protocol**.

[ETUC press release](#)

[European Parliament press release](#)

European Summit: no more free lunches for the bankers

16/09/2009 – On the occasion of the [informal meeting of the European Council](#) to prepare the G20 meeting in Pittsburgh, ETUC urged EU leaders **to draw up a balance of the enormous support** – about **three trillions euros** – which has been given over the past year to save the banking system. According to John Monks, *‘governments and central banks have to make sure banks use the support they have been given to support jobs and investment’*.

[ETUC press release](#)

Will the Services Directive rescue Europe from the crisis?

23/09/2009 – At last Competitiveness Council (24–25 September), the Swedish Presidency declared that *‘the Services Directive can be a tool to help Europe recover more rapidly from the economic crisis’*. ETUC reminded the Swedish leaders that such a Directive was mainly a deregulatory instrument and that **the current crisis requires more and not less regulation**.

[ETUC press release](#)

[Competitiveness Council conclusions](#)



[You may be interested]

Youtube, Flickr and Twitter: three new tools for ETUC



Thanks to the utilisation of new Internet tools (Web 2.0), ETUC Press and Communication department has developed audiovisual galleries (photos and videos) in order to increase the visibility of its activities.

While the ETUC web site already has an [audiovisual section](#) presenting recent or archived images as well as videos, it was clear that two tools were more user friendly: they are [Flickr](#) and [YouTube](#), where you will find respectively a **photo gallery** and an **audiovisual channel**. These tools are interesting because they allow us to classify pictures or videos by themes, they are easy to use and they can be adapted and updated

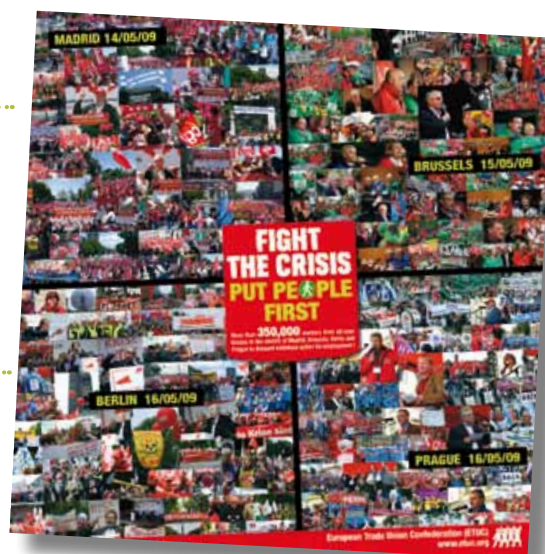
continuously. All images available are free of charge.

Finally, by our [Twitter](#) account, those who are members of this social network will be informed of our recent activities.

You can access the three new tools directly via our home page: you need only to click on the icons in the bottom right area.

The 14–16 May Euro-demonstrations and the Paris Conference are now available in DVD

DVDs containing images of [European Days of Actions on 14–16 May](#) as well as the [Mid-Term Conference in Paris on 27–28 May](#) are now available. You can watch them at the following address: <http://www.etuc.org/r/1114>.



New ETUC–SDA publication

The joint ETUC and Social Development Agency (SDA) publication '[Empowering EWCs: Strengthening the know-how and the capacities for effective action – 2009](#)' has just been published. This publication presents the main elements of the discussions about the recast of the European Works Councils Directive issued from the 23–24 March Conference as well as the text of the new directive. For more information: sda-asbl@etuc.org.

Editorial Team

MANAGING EDITOR:

John Monks

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

Patricia Grillo

EDITOR:

Daniele Melli

Please pass this newsletter on to your colleagues and contacts