

[ETUC newsletter]



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ETUC in action



Dear Readers,

If there is one single word that we have heard too often during June 2010, it is undoubtedly the word 'austerity'. It has been uttered in virtually every language in Europe.

The point is that most of Europe's governments have adopted austerity measures that are supposed to get the economy out of the slump. These measures will lead to drastic cuts in public spending, which are bound to have an impact on social cohesion. Austerity is being promoted in an economic and social context that is already heavily burdened with low growth and high unemployment. As we stated ahead of the European Council on 17 June, austerity measures, which are considered (wrongly!) as the only cure for public deficits, will have a very negative impact on European citizens and workers. They will begin to bite in the autumn and will herald a tough winter. Far from boosting the economy and calming the markets, budgetary austerity is liable to send us straight into recession, as it did in 1931 when similar measures were taken by President Hoover in the United States. In addition, such measures will once again fall upon those who have already paid the bill for the crisis. Social tensions are rising pretty much everywhere. Faced with the injustice of such a situation, Europe's trade unions have decided to mobilise to demand more employment and growth, rather than budgetary belt-tightening.

At its last Executive Committee, the European Trade Union Confederation decided to organise a European day of action on 29 September this year, tying in with the date of the Economic Affairs and Finance Council meeting. This day of action will involve a Euro-demonstration in Brussels coupled with actions in the various European countries. The objective behind our mobilisation is to say 'No' to a Europe of austerity and to call for a Europe of employment, social justice and solidarity. I am counting on your commitment and your participation to help this mobilisation to succeed.

Figure of the month

75%

of EU citizens feel poverty increased in their country in 2009.

(Source : new Eurobarometer survey on social impacts of the crisis)

Note

NO TO AUSTERITY

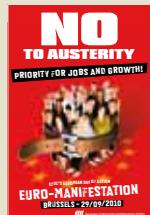
PRIORITY FOR JOBS AND GROWTH!

John Monks
General Secretary



[ETUC in action]

Euro-demonstration on 29 September in Brussels “No to Austerity – Priority for jobs and growth!”



02/06/2010 – The ETUC is organising a **Euro-pean Day of Action on 29 September**. This day of action will consist in a **Euro-demonstration in Brussels** and actions in several European countries. The Euro-manifestation on 29 September will coincide with the Economics and Finance Council (ECOFIN).

The trade union European Day of Action will aim at saying “no” to the **Europe of austerity** and asking for **Europe of employment, social justice and solidarity** (see the dossier on the following page).

[ETUC press release](#)

MAJOR MEETINGS – CONFERENCES – PROJECTS

ETUC Executive Committee

01-02/06/2010 – The ETUC's [Executive Committee](#) met in Brussels. Many subjects were on the agenda, notably the worsening of the economic crisis and its consequences, the increase in unemployment, the situation of the Euro and financial regulation. In addition, the revision of the Working Time Directive, public services, management and financing of climate policies and the simplification of legislation (Better Regulation) were discussed.

Closure of the project “Civil Society Dialogue: Bringing together workers from Turkey and the European Union through a shared culture of work”

05/05/2010 – The closing conference of the project “Civil Society Dialogue: Bringing together workers from Turkey and the European Union through a shared culture of work” took place in Istanbul recently. This major project for the European trade union movement engaged several national trade union confederations from Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Slovakia, Sweden and United Kingdom. The objective of the project was the **strengthening of the contacts and mutual exchanges of experience among Turkish trade**



unions and trade unions from EU member countries, in order to ensure better knowledge and mutual understanding, as well as being aware of opportunities and challenges of the future enlargement. Many activities, such as seminars, conferences, exchanges and workshops were organised in the framework of the project. For more information : <http://www.workers-together.org/> [Training modules published in the framework of the project](#) [Survey of opinions undertaken in the framework of the project](#)

[Trade Union Agenda]

June – July 2010

01/06/2010	ETUC Steering Committee (Brussels)	
01-02/06/2010	ETUC Executive Committee (Brussels)	
07-09/06/2010	Nordic Labour Congress (Helsingør)	
07-11/06/2010	CFDT Congress (Tours)	Congress Programme
21-25/06/2010	ITUC Congress (Vancouver)	Congress Programme
15/07/2010	Meeting of the Group II 'Workers' of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	



[ETUC in action]

NO TO AUSTERITY Priority for jobs and growth!

European Day of Action – 29 September 2010

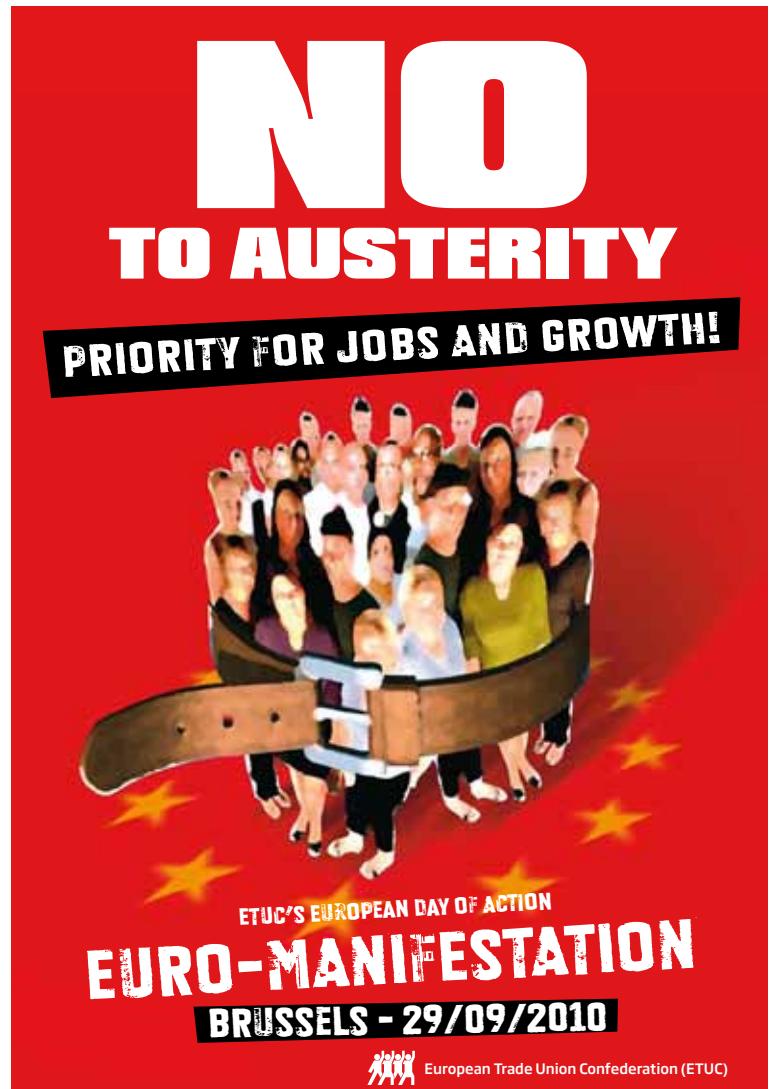
The financial crisis has plunged Europe into the worst situation it has ever known since the 1930s: there are 23 million unemployed people in Europe and growing social tension across the continent. To cope with this situation, the only response Europe's governments have been able to come up with is to adopt austerity measures that will add to the negative consequences on social solidarity and growth. The European trade union movement is opposing this situation and has decided to mobilise against it. The ETUC is organising a European Day of Action on 29 September, culminating in a major Euro-demonstration in Brussels. Other actions will be organised on the same day in several European cities.

We didn't cause this crisis. The bill has to be paid by banks, not by workers.

The European trade union movement rejects harsh cuts in wages and pensions, insecurity and unemployment, notably among young people, social regression and poverty.

We want a more social Europe with more solidarity for European citizens, guaranteeing access to quality and stable jobs, decent pay and better pensions, as well as better training for all.

We want sustainable growth. So, we are asking for a tax on financial transactions, the development of industrial policies based on low-carbon growth, as well as greater fiscal coordination and transparency to prevent social dumping in Europe.



Useful links:

[Tract](#)

[Poster](#)

[Actions in the various European countries](#)

For practical information on the Euro-demonstration, please visit our web site www.etuc.org/a/7407 regularly.



[EU Agenda]

June – July 2010

03-04/06/2010	Justice and Internal Affairs Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
06/06/2010	EU-Egypt Summit (Barcelona)	Summit Agenda
07/06/2010	Eurogroup Meeting (Luxembourg)	Meeting Agenda
07-08/06/2010	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumers Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
08/06/2010	ECOFIN Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
14-17/06/2010	Plenary Session at the European Parliament (Strasbourg)	
14-15/06/2010	General Affairs and External Relations Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
16/06/2010	EU-New Zealand Summit (Madrid)	Summit Agenda
17-18/06/2010	European Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
21/06/2010	Environment Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
05-08/07/2010	Plenary Session at the European Parliament (Strasbourg)	
05-06/07/2010	Informal meeting of Ministers for Health (Brussels)	Meeting Agenda
08-09/07/2010	Informal meeting of Ministers for Employment and Social Affairs (Brussels)	Meeting Agenda
12/07/2010	Eurogroup Meeting (Brussels)	Meeting Agenda
12-13/07/2010	Informal meeting of Ministers for Environment (Ghent)	Meeting Agenda
13/07/2010	ECOFIN Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
14-16/07/2010	Informal meeting of Ministers for Research, Competitiveness and Industry (Louvain la neuve)	Meeting Agenda
15-16/07/2010	Plenary Session at the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
15-16/07/2010	Informal meeting of Ministers for Justice (Brussels)	Meeting Agenda



[Focus on the EU and trade union positions]

Meeting between social partners and the President of the EU Commission

04/06/2010 – The ETUC and the other European social partners met the European Commission President Mr Barroso to discuss the problem of the consequences of the crisis and of austerity measures on employment and the social dimension. The European trade union movement highlighted its [priorities](#) : the need for the EU to define a recovery plan to stimulate growth through its own development, the urgency to bolster fiscal coordination at European level and the continuation of efforts to tighten financial regulations.

[ETUC press release](#)



Adopting a development strategy is an urgent necessity for climate policies

04/06/2010 – As the climate negotiations resume in Bonn, ETUC asked the EU Environment Council meeting on 11 June to take appropriate measures. According to ETUC, Europe urgently has to develop strong, sustainable and dynamic industrial policies based on a low-carbon approach and the use of new technologies. To achieve these objectives, the EU must:

- Mobilise and strengthen existing resources for climate policies, particularly those of the European Investment Bank and the Structural Funds;
- Reform its governance of funds used to combat climate change, in particular by making respect for social and environmental principles a requirement for obtaining project financing;
- Use innovative new sources of finance, such as a tax on financial transactions.

[ETUC press release](#)

Working Time Directive : its main objective must be workers' protection

07/06/2010 – For the European trade union movement, the main goal of the Working Time Directive is, and must remain, the protection of workers against the health and safety risks of long and irregular working hours. However, any initiative to amend the Directive must first of all put an end to the opt-out and respect the European Court of Justice judgements on on-call work. The conditions are currently not there to address a possible revision in the social dialogue.

[ETUC press release](#)

ETUC at 99th Session of the International Labour Conference

14/06/2010 – [John Monks took part in the 99th session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva](#). The ETUC general Secretary voiced the concerns of the European trade union movement about austerity measures. He also reiterated the need to append a social progress protocol to the European treaties, referring to the incompatibility with International Labour Organisation (ILO) standards of European law that contravenes the right to strike, notably in the [BALPA](#) case.

[ETUC press release](#)



[Focus on the EU and trade union positions]

European Council: ETUC against austerity measures

16/06/2010 – In a letter addressed to the European Heads of State and Government on the eve of the June European Council, the ETUC strongly warned against the austerity measures being applied in most EU countries. According to the European trade union movement, these measures risk killing growth and having serious social consequences for the European citizens who continue to pay the cost of the crisis.

[ETUC press release](#)

[Letter addressed to the European Heads of State and Government](#)



[You may be interested]

ETUC study 'Climate change, new industrial policies and ways out of the crisis'

On the occasion of a press conference in Brussels, the ETUC study 'Climate change, new industrial policies and ways out of the crisis' was presented. Joël Decaillon, ETUC deputy general secretary, and Philippe Morvannou, European Project Manager of Syndex consultancy, author of the study, presented

the [main points of this study](#) and replied to the journalists' questions.

[Link to the study](#)



European trade unionism : ETUC training modules



The ETUC has recently produced a series of 9 training modules which are important tools for building capacity within the European trade union movement. These training modules are intended to offer a short introduction to each subject and each will have an educational activity that can be used on an individual basis or with groups of members. Developing several themes such as industrial relations at European level, migration in the EU or free movement of workers, they can also be used as a short background document for presentations. The modules are available in English, French, Italian, Dutch, Slovak and Turkish. For more information and downloading: <http://www.etuc.org/a/7295>

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NO TO AUSTERITY

PRIORITY FOR JOBS AND GROWTH



ETUC'S EUROPEAN DAY OF ACTION

EURO-MANIFESTATION
BRUSSELS - 29/09/2010



European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)