

collective bargaining

Issue 6/2012 June

This newsletter presents up-to-date information on collective bargaining developments across Europe since February 2008. It aims to facilitate information exchange between trade unions and to support the work of the ETUC's collective bargaining committee.



AMSTERDAM INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED LABOUR STUDIES
UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM



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Austria

Pressure on media enterprises

June 27, 2012

Negotiations for a new collective agreement in the media sector (with approximately 12.000 workers) are in the fridge for months, due to a lack of a serious offer from the employer's side. In the meantime important trade segments are opting for another trade group. GPA-djp initiated a picket line on 27 June in front of the Economic Chamber in Vienna. One of the key demands is a minimum wage of €1,300.

German: <http://www.oegb.at/servlet/ContentServer ...>
http://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20120615 ...

New collective agreement for post workers

June 20, 2012

A new collective agreement was closed for post works that will ensure a 3.2% wage increase. Additionally a monthly payment of €84 has been agreed for overtime. The agreement will come into force by 1 July 2012 and will run for one year.

English: <http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Apps/uni.nsf/pages ...>

German: <http://www.gpf.at/news/post-einigung-bei-den-gehaltsverhandlungen>

Disagreements over the way to tackle staffing shortages in care sector

June 13, 2012

Care sector trade union Vida has called for the improvement of pay and working conditions in the care sector to address the growing labour shortages. Vida's call for more investment in the care sector comes as a response to a request of employers to ease immigration rules for nurses. Vida states the main problems are low wage, long hours and ever changing shift patterns.

German: <http://www.vida.at/servlet/ContentServer ...>

Golden handshake for AUA pilots

June 5, 2012

Austrian Airlines pilots and stewardesses that have decided to take voluntary redundancy rather than switch to contracts similar to those as in effect at Tyrolean Airways will receive a golden handshake of €430,000. In total 341 staff members have decided to go. Employees that stay will have to work under contracts with wages that are around 25 per cent lower than the sum pilots and stewards of AUA are receiving at the moment.

German: <http://www.pr-inside.com/de/aua-bordleute-gehen-alle-anderen-fliegen ...>
<http://www.vida.at/servlet/ContentServer ...>

English: http://austrianindependent.com/news/Business/2012-06-05/11382/AUA_pilots_get_half_a_million_each_golden_handshake

Controversy over Sunday opening

June 4, 2012

A controversial plan allowing a supermarket to open up on Sundays has led to complaints from the side of workers representatives. The trade union GPA-djp criticized the non-compliance of working time rules and of the existing company agreement. The union is collecting the complaints and will hand these over to the competent authorities. Meanwhile staff reacted with mixed feelings because the pay on Sunday is much better. A Sunday shift is paid double the normal daily rate. Criticism also came from the Catholic Church.

English: <http://austrianindependent.com/news/Business/2012-06-04 ...>

German: <http://www.oegb.at/servlet/ContentServer ...>

Belgium

New collective agreement on time off and career break

June 27, 2012

After a strike and several protests the government has started new negotiations with the trade unions on the general scheme of time off. An agreement has been signed that is more limited than the existing scheme. However, with this scheme employees keep the right to leave for urgent elderly help or caretaking with a maximum of three years. Also a career break for a maximum period of twelve months is included. Third element in the agreement is the possibility for elderly workers to change to a four-day week job.

French: http://www.csc-en-ligne.be/Actualite/Communiqués/detail/nouvelles_regles.asp

Dutch: <http://www.abvv.be/web/guest/news-nl/-/article ...>

Unions leave board advisory committee Flanders temp staffing industry

June 22, 2012

Trade unions ACV, ABVV and ACLVB have left the advisory committee of the Flanders temporary staffing industry, arguing their input is not treated with the weight it deserves. Reports of discrimination, unsafe work places and indecent working conditions have put the unions on edge. The employers' organisation, Federgon, has expressed its wish for reconciliation. It stressed that the unions are a vital part of the committee and of the industry as a whole.

Bulgaria

Still uncertainty over troubled producer of non-ferrous metals

June 22, 2012

Workers at the Lead and Zinc Complex in Kardzhali are considering civil disobedience due to the uncertain future of the plant. On 12 April, after 40-day protests over delayed salaries, the workers received some of their money, totalling BGN 500 000, which were distributed on as a result of the sale of another troubled company, the Gorubso-Madan mining firm. The workers filed personal claims in Court against the owner of the plant, Bulgarian oligarch Valentin Zahariev, who is also known for mismanagement of what used to be the largest steel-maker in Bulgaria, the now bankrupt Kremikovtzi plant near Sofia. Workers demand the replacement of the entire management while protests continue.

English: http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=139866

http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=140484

Military plant workers threaten industrial action over delayed wages

June 22, 2012

Workers of the VMZ Sopot military plant have threatened industrial action unless they receive their delayed salaries. Employing 3,700 people, VMZ Sopot is the largest military plant in the country and produces both military and civil products. Workers state that payment of salaries was repeatedly delayed for the last 1.5 year and that wages for January, April and May are currently due. The Confederation of Independent Bulgarian Syndicates (KNSB) has requested the Economy Ministry to intervene to ensure the payment of wages and funds to purchase raw materials. The increasingly debt-ridden company is set to be privatised after a vote in Parliament last year.

English: http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=140587

President vetoes automatic career bonus Supreme Judicial Council

June 14, 2012

President Rosen Plevneliev has vetoed a set of amendments to the Judiciary act that would automatically promote members of the Supreme Judicial Council (VSS), its inspectorate and their staff when their term expired. The amendments containing the so-called 'career-bonus' were sent back to Parliament for new debates and revision. The veto is said to come at the urging of Prime Minister Boyko Borisov, who previously stated he would not comment on procedures regulating an independent judicial branch. Other amendments not concerning the career-bonus, such as the appointment of new members of the VSS and the Chief Prosecutor, were not included in the veto.

English: http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=140318

http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=140301

Cabinet imposes ban on bonuses for state servants

June 13, 2012

The council of ministers has banned all bonuses for employees of the state administration. Instead, a yearly evaluation system will be instated to increase wages for well performing civil servants. The ban comes after the direction of a national agency was forced to resign in a bonus related scandal and Prime Minister Borisov ordered all ministers and other high level officials to return all bonuses they received over the last years.

English: http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=140242

Prison guards protest against deplorable conditions

June 10, 2012

The Confederation of the Independent Syndicates in Bulgaria (KNSB) organised a protest in front of the Justice ministry on 10 June. The prison guards demand more funding for the overcrowded prisons, higher wages and better benefits. The Bulgarian Helsinki Committee too, has repeatedly addressed the issue of overcrowding with the government, stating it visited prisons where toilets were lacking and some prisoners

were sleeping on the floor on mats.

English: http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=140141

Cyprus

Hotel workers strike over wage cuts

June 28, 2012

500 employees at 20 'Tsokkos Hotels' in Famagusta took part in a 24-hour warning strike to protest violations of their collective agreements, including wage cuts. According to the trade union PEO the employee strike, including Cypriots and Europeans, was because employers at Tsokkos have suddenly made cuts in wages, along with other benefits such as provident fund, national holidays and Sundays.

English: [http://www.cyprus-mail.com/tsokkos/tsokkos-hotel-workers-strike ...](http://www.cyprus-mail.com/tsokkos/tsokkos-hotel-workers-strike...)

Czech Republic

Old dispute over right to strike flares again

June 6, 2012

In June 2011, the Prague court in preliminary opinion declared a strike called by CMKOS for later that month to be illegal. One day before the hearing before the court of appeal, the Ministry of Finance has withdrawn its proposal. Angered trade union officials claim the ministry has known for almost a year that the court of appeals would reject the criminalisation of the strike but refused to withdraw the accusation until the last moment in order to uphold the preliminary ruling as long as possible.

English: <http://www.eucoban.eu/EMF/Reports/Czech-Legal-dispute-over-the-right-to-strike>

Denmark

Celebrating the birth of IndustriALL Global Union

June 20, 2012

Copenhagen was the host town for the merger congress of three Global Union Federations. The three organisations ICEM, IMF and ITGWLF have backed up the proposed statutes of IndustriALL Global Union in their separate congresses. In a parallel session the Bargaining for a Living Wage conference brought together 130 representatives of textile, garment and leather workers' unions. Unions committed to taking concrete steps to achieve a living wage, to increasing national, regional and international cooperation on this issue, and to regularly share developments.

English: <http://www.building-power.org/congress-ends-history-industriall-begins>

Job losses at Maersk

June 1, 2012

The multinational container shipping company Maersk announced this month that it is cutting 400 jobs, 250 of which in Copenhagen. The cuts are an attempt to reorganise for greater efficiency in the face of large losses in the first quarter of 2012. Maersk's 3.4 billion kronor losses in the first quarter of 2012 compare badly to its 2.5 billion kronor profits just one year earlier.

English: <http://cphpost.dk/business/maersk-line-cut-250-jobs-copenhagen>

Estonia

Supervisory board refuses pay increase CEO

June 14, 2012

The supervisory board of the energy company Eesti Energia decided to reject a proposal to increase sharply the salary of its CEO. The proposal to increase the salary with €20,000 a month was rejected because the majority of the board said that the changes that had taken place in the company did not justify such a rapid increase in management board salaries.

English: <http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/energy/?doc=58715>

Finland

New report on working conditions for Chinese workers

June 28, 2012

The watchdog Finnwatch published an analysis based on the data put together by their colleagues from Swedwatch. The data concern working conditions at four Chinese suppliers for Finnish companies in Guangdong. The new data illustrate how working conditions have changed in recent years as Swedwatch made a similar study in 2005. The analysis summarises significant positive changes as almost all Chinese workers have now a written employment agreement, they are paid the mandatory minimum wage or more, in most cases overtime work is compensated properly and the total working hours of most workers has decreased (although working hours still exceed the maximum norms set down by Chinese legislation). However, many serious and systematic deficiencies in working conditions prevail.

English: <http://www.artto.kaapeli.fi/unions/T2012/p25>

Deal signed after controversial court ruling order - unions fined for strike

June 19, 2012

Employees of Finnair technical services went on strike on 5 June, protesting a decision to outsource engine services to Swiss company SR Technics, expected to lead to 280 job losses at Finnair. In a controversial decision, a Helsinki district court judge struck down the strike, also threatening a 2.8 million fine if the strike continued illegally. Union representatives criticised the ruling, protesting amongst others against the fact that union representatives were not heard in court, and announced a union appeal. Legal experts denounced the ruling claiming the district court did not have jurisdiction in industrial conflicts and that the fine set exceeded the legal maximum tenfold. The labour court subsequently decreased the fine to €19,500 plus employers' legal costs, but did not rule on the legality of the district court injunction.

English: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1338989374.html>
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/14/finnair-strike-idUSL5E8HEC9P20120614>
http://yle.fi/uutiset/union_appeals_finnair_strike_injunction/6169141
[http://www.hs.fi/english/article/Judge+orders+Finnair+technical+staff+back+to+work ...](http://www.hs.fi/english/article/Judge+orders+Finnair+technical+staff+back+to+work+...)
http://yle.fi/uutiset/labour_court_fines_unions_for_finnair_strike/6187515

Nokia comes up with new lay-offs

June 14, 2012

Nokia has announced to slash 10,000 jobs, or 19 per cent of its workforce by the end of 2013 in what is called an emergency overhaul. The restructuring includes closing research centres and a factory in Germany, Canada and Finland, and the departures of three senior executives. 3,700 of the planned 10,000 jobs to be cut will take place in Finland. The handset factory in Salo to be closed is Nokia's largest in the country, and about 850 employees will be affected there by the reductions.

English: [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/15/technology/nokia-to-cut-10000-jobs ...](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/15/technology/nokia-to-cut-10000-jobs-...)
[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB ...](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB...)

Possible industrial action at nuclear power plant construction site TVO

June 7, 2012

Trade unions Pro, the Metalworkers' Union, the Electrical Workers' Union, the Construction Workers' Union, the Finnish Engineers' Association and the Union of Professional Engineers have threatened with industrial action at the TVO nuclear power plant construction site Uliluoto 3 unless working conditions of the mainly foreign work force improve rapidly. The unions report that despite earlier talks between management and the unions, workers (mainly employed by subcontractors) receive salaries below the minimum wage, are forced to work overtime without compensation, receive no or limited health care, are poorly housed and face intimidation when joining a union. TVO management denies the accusations and

says to have no knowledge of any workers' rights abuses on the construction site.

English: http://yle.fi/uutiset/unions_plan_action_against_nuclear_utility/6170889

Tripartite task force on atypical work recommends more task forces in first report

June 1, 2012

A tripartite task force installed last year to report on ways of improving the labour market position of atypical workers delivered its report mid-May, recommending the establishment of several task forces on smaller issues. Trade unions confederation STTK, Akava and SAK have stated the lack of concrete proposals in the report is due to the unwillingness of employers to strengthen a-typical workers' position.

English: <http://www.artto.kaapeli.fi/unions/T2012/p21>

France

Minimum wage increased

June 27, 2012

For the first time in 6 years the French minimum wage (SMIC) will increase. The socialist government has announced a (limited) rise to 0.6% above the inflation rate. The rise amounts 2% to €9.40 an hour from 1 July 2012, of which 1.4% is accounted for by inflation. It is the first time the minimum wage, which affects one in six workers, will be raised above inflation since a 0.3% boost in 2006, before former president Sarkozy froze it in real terms.

English: [http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0 ...](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0...)

French: [http://www.liberation.fr/economie/2012/06/26/le-smic-devrait-augmenter ...](http://www.liberation.fr/economie/2012/06/26/le-smic-devrait-augmenter...)

Air France to cut 5000 jobs

June 21, 2012

In reaction to more losses for the already indebted air carrier group Air France - KLM, Air France has announced it aims to cut 5000 jobs by the end of 2013. The cuts will affect nearly 10% of Air France employees, yet the company has sent a plan to unions to reach the number without resorting to involuntary redundancies. About 1500 jobs are expected to disappear due to natural turnover; the rest will come from early retirements, reduced working hours and voluntary departures. Unions have reacted positively to the airlines commitment to social talks but are sceptical about the chances of cutting 5000 jobs without involuntary redundancies. Air France has warned unions that if they do not sign on to the plan, layoffs will be inevitable.

English: [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/22/business/global/air-france-plans ...](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/22/business/global/air-france-plans...)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-18532668>

CFDT Interco to survey civil servant concerns over working conditions

June 11, 2012

CFDT Interco trade union confederation announced it is conducting a survey questionnaire among workers of local government and some branches of the central government who are on permanent or temporary contracts, enquiring after their working conditions and other concerns. The union aims to formulate its key demands for the public sector based on the outcomes of the survey.

French: [http://www.cfdt.fr/rewrite/article/40998/communication ...](http://www.cfdt.fr/rewrite/article/40998/communication...)

Partial reversal of pension age hike

June 6, 2012

The government announced on 6 June that it will reverse the increase of the pension age from 60 to 62 for a limited group of workers. An estimated 110,000 workers who started their labour markets careers at age 18 and have made social security contributions for at least 41 years, will be allowed to retire at 60. The measure is expected to cost around 1.1 billion euros. According to the trade unions the measure is a step in the right direction but they expressed disappointment at the small number of people benefiting from the

reversal.

English: http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/World/Story/STIStory_807781.html

[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/financialcrisis/9314666/French-president ...](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/financialcrisis/9314666/French-president...)

French: [http://www.liberation.fr/economie/2012/06/06/retraite-a-60-ans-un-geste ...](http://www.liberation.fr/economie/2012/06/06/retraite-a-60-ans-un-geste...)

Germany

Strikers dismissed in Damp hospitals

June 26, 2012

A strike has led to the dismissal of 1000 workers in the Damp clinics, belonging to the Fresenius/Helios group. The strike was backed up by a decision of 86% of the workforce after negotiations for a new collective agreement failed. Ver.di announced new industrial action on 30 June against this provocative denial of the right to strike. Workers receive legal aid in the court cases that have been initiated to reverse the dismissals.

German: [http://www.verdi.de/themen/geld-tarif ...](http://www.verdi.de/themen/geld-tarif...)

Court backs up opting out – strike declared unlawful

June 20, 2012

In a German court case the judges have ruled that employers are permitted to leave all of a sudden the collective bargaining scheme that they have adhered to. The company had announced during the 2009 negotiations an opt-out of the bargaining scheme; a warning strike organised by Ver.di has now been found unlawful. Unions have already announced that they will continue the fight against the opting out.

German: [http://www.faz.net/aktuell/wirtschaft/verdi-muss-schadenersatz ...](http://www.faz.net/aktuell/wirtschaft/verdi-muss-schadenersatz...)

Opel negotiates the extension of a no-layoff guarantee

June 14, 2012

General Motors' lossmaking subsidiary Opel has outlined a plan that foresees an eventual end to production at its plant in Bochum softened by the extension of a no-layoff guarantee for all its German workers for two more years through 2016. One key concession from the IG Metall union and employee representatives would be to agree to delay a 4.3% pay increase won this year in industry-wide negotiations.

English: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/opel-working-with-unions-on ...](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/opel-working-with-unions-on...)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/14/business/global/opel-and-german-workers ...](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/14/business/global/opel-and-german-workers...)

Employees finance department take action against extreme understaffing

June 11, 2012

Services union Ver.di organised a protest on 11 June against extreme understaffing of the finance department of the Berlin region. Ver.di has stated that tax returns go uninspected due to the understaffing to an extent that put the financial stability of the region at stake. The protest comes on the eve of the budget vote in the regional parliament.

German: [http://www.verdi.de/themen/nachrichten ...](http://www.verdi.de/themen/nachrichten...)

Agreement for private banks

June 27, 2012

A pay deal was reached in the private banking sector, with 220,000 workers, after four rounds of negotiations between the employers and the trade union Ver.di. Wages will increase in two steps, from 1 July 2012 with 2.9% and from 1 July 2013 with 2.5%. For July 2012 an extra payment of €350 is settled. Trainees' pay will improve with a proportionately larger increase with pay going up by €50 as of 01.07.2012, and by a further €45 as of 01.07.2013. As a result, starting in 2013, trainees in their third year of training will be paid €1000. The collective agreement has been concluded for 26 months (till 30 April 2014).

English: [http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2012/06/06/german-union-verdi-agrees ...](http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2012/06/06/german-union-verdi-agrees...)

[http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Apps/uni.nsf/pages/sec_financeEn ...](http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Apps/uni.nsf/pages/sec_financeEn...)

German: <https://www.verdi.de/presse/pressemitteilungen ...>

New collective agreement in chemicals sector

June 1, 2012

IGBCE and the chemical employers association BAVC concluded a new collective agreement, including a 4.5% wage hike. The collective agreement contains increased employer contributions into the “demographic fund”, which allows older employees to work fewer hours for full salary in order to give younger workers more opportunities. The agreement includes a €50 per month pay increase for apprentices. The pay deal enters into force from 1 June in most parts of the country (some regions from 1 July or 1 August) and has duration of 19 months.

English: <http://www.icem.org/en/78-ICEM-InBrief ...>

German: <http://www.igbce.de/download/12996/2/tarifabschluss-chemie-2012-ost.pdf>

Greece

Hotel and food catering workers on strike

June 28, 2012

Hotel and food catering employees staged a 24-hour strike on 27 June while some 200 held a rally outside the Ministry of Labour in central Athens to demand the signing of a new collective agreement as the current one for hotel professionals expires on July 18. Further industrial action with protests outside major hotels is planned in July.

English: http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/_w_articles_wsite2_1_27/06/2012_449377

Hungary

Forced retirement at 62

June, 2012

The cabinet will introduce compulsory retirement at age 62 in all spheres of public service, government spokesman András Giró-Szász told reporters alongside education state secretary Rózsa Hoffmann. Hoffmann had earlier said there would be no general pensioning off of teachers. Health state secretary Miklós Szócska earlier declared it inconceivable that all medical personnel over the age of 62 be forced to retire. Giró-Szász said forced retirement will occur in one step in some areas and in two stages in others, adding that 10,000 people will be affected. There are 30,000 people age 62 or older employed in the public sector. Inter-ministerial negotiations are under way to ensure that the decision does not cause problems in health care or education.

900 dismissals at Nokia plant

June, 2012

Finnish handset maker Nokia will lay off 900 people at its base in the Hungarian city of Komarom, chairman of the plant's labour council Zoltan Laszlo told Hungarian press agency. This is the second phase of a previously announced 2,300 layoff at the Hungarian plant. Nokia already dismissed 1,200 people on March 29, of which 854 were Hungarian and 343 Slovaks commuters. Nokia announced in February transferring production from three of its plants, Komarom, Reynosa in Mexico and Salo in Finland, to Asia, laying off about 4,000 workers in the process.

Source: Maté Komiljovics

Ireland

Strike action continues at Bord na Móna

June 28, 2012

Workers at waste disposal and peat briquette production company Bord na Móna staged a one-day strike

over a wage dispute in early June. Trade unions Unite, Siptu and TEEU stated that the company failed to implement a court ruling granting that the unions had a legitimate claim to a 3.5% wage increase. Bord na Móna claims it has offered to execute the increase through a bonus but that the union declined this proposal. After management restated its position that it was not possible to improve the proposal reached on 4 April a new strike started 27 June with 1,500 workers back on the picket lines in less than a month.

English: <http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2012/0606/1224317370405.html>
<http://www.rte.ie/news/2012/0627/bord-na-mona-workers-mount-strike-action.html>
<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/breaking/2012/0627/breaking23.html>

Overtime row shakes Croke Park Agreement

June 27, 2012

Just when the second-year evaluation of the Croke Park agreement (see the Collective Bargaining Newsletters of the first half of 2012) reported public sector reform is on track, an overtime conflict between the Ministry of Health and the trade unions sparked new debate over its interpretation. The 2010 agreement, reached after large IMF imposed salary and benefit cuts, secured no further pay cuts or forced lay-offs in the public sector in exchange for a massive reform that would have to save up to 3.3 billion euro annually. However, as health expenditure exceeded this year's budget by 145 million in the first quarter, the Health Service Executive (HSE) suggested reducing costs by cutting back on overtime, allowances and premium pay. Trade unions reacted outraged, arguing that allowances and overtime form a pivotal part of pay and are therefore protected by the agreement. Tensions within the government have arisen as some ministers defend and others dismiss the HSE plan. Unions warn that the combination of a further 9500 job cuts and a recruitment ceiling may put pressure on the quality of services in the upcoming two years and that they will fight any privatisation of public services to avoid increased public expenditure.

English: [http://www.impact.ie/12/06/13/Croke-Park-agreement ...](http://www.impact.ie/12/06/13/Croke-Park-agreement...)
<http://www.siptu.ie/media/pressreleases2012/mainnews/fullstory,15990,en.html>
<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/breaking/2012/0626/breaking3.html>
<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2012/0626/1224318727011.html>
[http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/unions-will-not-accept-privatised ...](http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/unions-will-not-accept-privatised...)
[http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/pay-cutbacks-as-hse-overspends ...](http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/pay-cutbacks-as-hse-overspends...)

Aer Lingus and DAA pension talks break down as new strikes loom

June 17, 2012

Talks between Aer Lingus, the Dublin Airport Authority and trade unions over the multi-employer pension scheme, Irish Aviation Superannuation Scheme (IASS), broke down. Employers and unionists described the gap between their respective demands as 'unbridgeable'. So far, no new meeting has been scheduled, yet the resolution of the pension conflict is imperative for the government, which cannot sell its 25% stakes in Aer Lingus until then. Unions fear the airline plans to relocate its technical services currently based at Shannon airport and have announced strikes if it comes to that. Meanwhile, Aer Lingus' request in front of the court to reduce its capital by 500 million ahead of a final ruling got side tracked when the judge admitting the case to the commercial division of the High Court expressed concerns over the 700 million deficit in the pension scheme and refused any changes until more clarity existed regarding the pension scheme.

English: [http://www.rte.ie/news/2012/0607/aer-lingus-and-daa-pension-talks ...](http://www.rte.ie/news/2012/0607/aer-lingus-and-daa-pension-talks...)
<http://www.rte.ie/news/2012/0611/judge-raises-concerns-about-aer-lingus-pension.html>
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/17/us-aerlingus-strike-idUSBRE85G0FT20120617>

Public transport workers forced to choose between working conditions and jobs

June 7, 2012

Bus company Bus Éireann told trade unions it needs to cut annual spending by 20 million euros but seeks to avoid redundancies. The company has asked unions to agree to a voluntary severance scheme, a longer working week for clerical and executive employees and redeployment both between departments, lower salaries for new employees, cutbacks in holiday payment, sick leave and worker allowances as well as geographical areas without compensation. Unions have threatened industrial action if workers' pay is slashed. The bus company got into trouble at increased competition, higher fuel prices and reduced government subsidies. The Irish rail company, Iarnród Éireann, is currently discussing a redundancy package for 450 employees and the Dublin bus management and unions are also in cost saving negotiations.

English: [http://www.rte.ie/news/2012/0606/management-and-unions ...](http://www.rte.ie/news/2012/0606/management-and-unions...)
[http://www.independent.ie/national-news/union-on-warpath-over-bus-eireanns-20m-cuts ...](http://www.independent.ie/national-news/union-on-warpath-over-bus-eireanns-20m-cuts...)

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/dublin-bus-staff-face-pay-cuts ...>

Pfizer announces job cuts

June 7, 2012

Pharmaceutical company Pfizer announced it will be cutting 177 jobs in Cork but that Ireland will remain its key location. Pfizer said the company will install a voluntary redundancy scheme to try to avoid compulsory redundancies. If the scheme fails to perform, however, the company will seek compulsory redundancies. The lay-offs are said to be due to a switch to drugs that are more easily manufactured as well as a number of products come off patent. Unions and Pfizer are set to discuss the redundancy plan later, as the lay-offs are not planned until next year.

English: <http://www.rte.ie/news/2012/0606/pfizer-convenes-staff-meetings-in-cork.html>
<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/more-job-losses-likely-at-pharma-giant-pfizer ...>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-18337318>

Job losses expected at Atlantic Homecare

June 6, 2012

Atlantic Homecare has appointed an interim examiner to oversee its administration and announced to trade unions that it will be closing 13 of its stores in Ireland. SIPTU and the examiner are expected to meet over job losses and redundancy packages.

English: <http://www.siptu.ie/media/pressreleases2012/featurednews ...>

Mediation fails in Lagan Brick dispute

June 5, 2012

The independent mediation process over the Lagan Brick redundancy payments has ended without resolve. The dispute assessment panel has suggested the case be decided through binding arbitration, a suggestion to which trade union SIPTU has agreed but to which no answer has been received from management. The Lagan Brick dispute originates in a conflict over redundancy payments at the Lagan Brick manufacturing plant in Kingscourt.

English: <http://www.siptu.ie/media/pressreleases2012/featurednews ...>

Italy

Foreign language lecturers fight for their rights

June 18, 2012

A group of non-tenure foreign language teachers, instructing university students in their mother tongue, has reiterated its longstanding demands for equal treatment. The so-called 'lettori', all of them foreigners, have repeatedly claimed (and proved in court) that their separate treatment is discriminatory and a violation of single market legislation. Hoping for Prime Minister Monti's sympathy as a former EU Commissioner, the group has re-launched its campaign.

English: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/18/world/europe ...>

Unions in logistics, merchandise transport and shipping seek pay deals

June 14, 2012

The negotiation proposal for the renewal of the logistics, freight and shipping collective agreement has been approved by the unitary platform of FILT CGIL, CISL and FIT Uiltrasporti. The agreed text will be submitted in the next few weeks to employees. It covers 700,000 workers. The agreement introduces rules for the entire production chain and tool to fight against insecurity. Apprenticeship is defined as the privileged form of entry in the industry. The CGIL, Cisl and Uil's federations working together in the unitary platform also renewed the national collective agreement which covers about 10,000 workers in the harbour sector. Health and safety standards are improved and upgraded, and vocational training will be improved by the introduction of standards and certificates. In the meantime the trade unions continue their fight for the renewal of the agreement in the local public transport, a deal that should provide the tools needed to address the serious crisis in the sector.

Italian: <http://www.cgil.it/dettagliodocumento.aspx?ID=19301>
<http://www.cgil.it/DettaglioDocumento.aspx?ID=19273>
<http://www.cgil.it/DettaglioDocumento.aspx?ID=19285>

Disclosure of the industrial plan of Fiat necessary

June 7, 2012

Trade unions active in Fiat gathered in Torino and formulated a joint position towards the insufficient information that is provided by the company. While restructuring is going on across Europe workers' representatives lack any involvement on the measures that have been taken. The unions ask for a responsible and socially sustainable policy, without site closures and forced redundancies, based on comprehensive information and consultation procedures.

English: [http://www.fiom.cgil.it/auto/fiat/documentazione ...](http://www.fiom.cgil.it/auto/fiat/documentazione...)

Italian: [http://www.fiom.cgil.it/auto/fiat/documentazione ...](http://www.fiom.cgil.it/auto/fiat/documentazione...)

Latvia

National opera chorus strike out ruled by court

June 15, 2012

The national opera chorus trade union had called a strike for 8 June from 7 p.m. onwards. Talks with management failed to resolve the conflict that centres on low salaries, heavy workload and improper contracts. Management went to court that ruled that the proposed strike was illegal. The ruling cannot be appealed. Meanwhile the trade union has called the managing director to resign.

English: <http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/legislation/?doc=58798>

Retirement age to be increased from 2014

June 14, 2012

A proposal to increase the retirement age will be applied slower than previously planned. This was decided during the third and final reading in the Latvian parliament (the Saeima). The current retirement age of 62 will be raised by three months every year, starting from 2014, until it will reach 65 in 2025. The minimum insurance record will also be raised to 15 years and to 20 years starting from 2025.

English: <http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/legislation/?doc=58720>

Liechtenstein

Collective agreement for carpenters and roofers renewed

June 12, 2012

Negotiations between the trade unions and the employers' organisation LANV have led to a renewal of the collective agreement for the carpenters and roof workers. The old agreement expired at the end of 2011. The negotiators have applied for a general binding agreement in order to avoid distortion of competition.

German: [http://www.wirtschaftskammer.li/news/2012/06/12/news/zimmermeister ...](http://www.wirtschaftskammer.li/news/2012/06/12/news/zimmermeister...)

Luxembourg

Luxembourg scene of European anti-austerity protest

June 21, 2012

Over 7000 protesters marched through Luxembourg's capital on 21 June, protesting against austerity politics. The protesters spoke out against the agenda of public sector cuts, easy hiring and firing and lack of reform in the top. Protesters said the bottom of the labour market is made to pay for mistakes at the top.

English: [http://www.thestar.com/news/world/article/1012577--thousands-of-european ...](http://www.thestar.com/news/world/article/1012577--thousands-of-european-...)

Malta

Paramedics take industrial action

June 25, 2012

After 18 months of unsuccessful talks over working conditions, trade union UHM has announced industrial actions in health centres and hospitals. Radiographers, audiologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, medical laboratory scientists, dental technologists, dental hygienists, speech language pathologists, neurophysiology technologists and other workers will participate in the actions. Each group will follow specific directives of tasks they shall not perform for the duration of the strike. Emergency services will remain available at all times.

English: [http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20120625/local/industrial-action ...](http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20120625/local/industrial-action-...)
<http://www.independent.com.mt/news.asp?newsitemid=146528>

Work guarantee for 15 years

June 12, 2012

The cooperative of Maritime Pilots has been guaranteed work for the next 15 years after an agreement was reached with Transport Malta. Besides providing a service to the industry, the cooperative has also invested in the training of its pilots and their seamen. The cooperative is obliged to take part in national emergency services and in regular drills that are organised by Transport Malta.

English: [http://www.di-ve.com/Default.aspx?ID ...](http://www.di-ve.com/Default.aspx?ID-...)

Netherlands

Employers and employees of seaports take pension row to AEGON tennis tournament

June 21, 2012

Employers and employees of the Dutch seaport community have mounted a joint campaign “put the money back” against insurance company AEGON, which they claim has pocketed 715 million pounds of their pension funds. The protesters, supported by local unions in the UK, handed out blue tennis balls and leaflets at the entrance of the AEGON International Tennis Tournament.

English: [http://www.dockerspensionfund.com/36-voorkant-website/92-put-the-money-back ...](http://www.dockerspensionfund.com/36-voorkant-website/92-put-the-money-back-...)
<http://www.itfglobal.org/press-area/index.cfm/pressdetail/7519>

KLM to freeze salaries

June 7, 2012

Airline KLM, part of the Air France - KLM group, has announced a freeze of salaries until 2015 to avoid layoffs whilst cutting back a 115 million euro in three years' time. Partner company Air France also announced cut backs including 5000 redundancies. The company furthermore stated it wants to reduce holiday allowances and waiting time on long flights. Trade unions have expressed their disagreement with the pay freeze but stated that their priorities will be that the burden of the cuts will be fairly shared and to avoid involuntary redundancies.

English: [http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2012/06/airline_klm_to_freeze ...](http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2012/06/airline_klm_to_freeze-...)
Dutch: [http://www.fnvbondgenoten.nl/nieuws/nieuwsarchief/2012/juni ...](http://www.fnvbondgenoten.nl/nieuws/nieuwsarchief/2012/juni-...)

Government and unions clash over child care cuts

June 5, 2012

The largest trade union FNV has called on the government to stop cuts in child care, arguing women are finding it increasingly difficult to combine work with family responsibilities. Recent reforms have cut back eligibility for a government funded scheme to keep child care affordable. FNV argues women have already reduced working hours and will be decreasing them even more next year. In reaction, the Social Affairs

minister Henk Kamp has said women are not working less but finding alternatives to formal child care.

English: [http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2012/06 ...](http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2012/06...)

Norway

Oil workers' strike

June 27, 2012

Norwegian oil and gas workers launched a limited strike on Sunday 24 June, demanding higher wages, the right to early retirement and to 14 days paternity leave, and plan to decide on 28 June whether to escalate their action as talks have broken down. Unions have tried to keep the labour action small enough to keep the government out while inflicting enough pain on companies to force them to act. So far the dispute resulted in the shutdown of production in five fields. Also onshore facilities are set to be hit.

English: [http://www.marketwatch.com/story/norway-oil-workers-strike-forcing-rig ...](http://www.marketwatch.com/story/norway-oil-workers-strike-forcing-rig...)
[http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-06-10/statoil-shell-s-norway-oil-operations ...](http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-06-10/statoil-shell-s-norway-oil-operations...)
[http://www.lse.co.uk/FinanceNews.asp?ArticleCode ...](http://www.lse.co.uk/FinanceNews.asp?ArticleCode...)

Unhappy over wave of strikes

June 11, 2012

After a long spring marked by industrial disputes a debate about compulsory arbitration and ordering strikers to return back to work has emerged. The last dispute that led to this debate was a strike by the security guards around the country that clogged airports, disrupted cash supplies, emptied minibanks and created security concerns at a wide range of public gathering places.

English: <http://www.newsinenglish.no/2012/06/11/strikes-set-off-state-led-shake-up/>

State sector strikes end, leaving unions divided

June 8, 2012

After trade unions LO and YS reached a settlement with the government negotiator, the second biggest trade union confederation, Unio, has not ended its strike in favour of a voluntary binding arbitration process. LO and YS settled on a 4% wage increase earlier in June, after a one week strike, when Unio refused the offer. Calling even more workers to the street including the Union of Education Norway, the strike raged on for another week. While Unio blames the other unions for withdrawing too early, state claims the union demands were unrealistic from the start and several union sources report Unio was looking for escalation in the strike. In the voluntary arbitration process, Unio workers will likely reach the same settlement as the other unions.

English: <http://www.newsinenglish.no/2012/06/08/all-state-workers-finally-back-at-work/>
<http://www.tnp.no/norway/panorama/2959-strike-in-norway-is-partially-over;>
http://www.ei-ie.org/en/news/news_details/2181

Poland

Solidarność blocks hypermarket to defend sacked unionist

June 20, 2012

Members of trade union NSZZ Solidarność have blocked Auchan hypermarket in Mikołów (Southern Poland) in defence of one of their members who was fired after establishing a company trade union branch. Unionists blocked the cash desks by paying items with the lowest denomination coins while others distributed leaflets explaining the action. Unionist Aron Plewa was sacked one day after notifying management of the union's establishment. Solidarność leadership is challenging the dismissal in court. The purchased items were school books given to an orphanage.

English: [http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Apps/uni.nsf/pages/homepageEn ...](http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Apps/uni.nsf/pages/homepageEn...)

Children hand out cards asking Tesco's not to dismiss their parents

June 14, 2012

On Children's Day, Solidarność trade union picketed Silesia City Center Mall in Katowice to protest against mass layoffs at Tesco's Poland. Children of the employees delivered cards to the company, asking its management not to dismiss their parents. Tesco's has started dismissing the first of a total of 1000 employees that will be made redundant. Meanwhile, the collective labour dispute continues, in which Solidarność is calling for limitations on the number of redundancies and a social plan for those who are laid off. Solidarność also accused Tesco's of offering far worse working conditions in Central Eastern Europe than to its employees in Western Europe.

English: [http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Apps/uni.nsf/pages/homepageEn ...](http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Apps/uni.nsf/pages/homepageEn...)

Portugal

Air traffic control strike called off

June 27, 2012

A strike announced by Air traffic control workers on Friday and Saturday, 29-30 June, has been called off. Pilots at TAP are planning to take their own industrial action in July and August in a dispute over pay. They also want to be consulted over the airline's impending privatisation which could lead to the sale of TAP to another major airline such as British Airways' owner IAG.

English: <http://www.abtn.co.uk/news/2817527-portugal-air-traffic-control-strike-called>

Romania

Bonus amnesty for state workers

June, 2012

The Chamber of Deputies has passed an amnesty allowing public servants to keep the bonuses they were paid over 2008-2010. Members of the Chamber approved the draft by which the salaries of public sector staff are established by contracts or collective agreements, and awards responsibility for them to local or county councils. The measure had broad cross-party support. The draft law on the amnesty was submitted to the Parliament in March on behalf of the 300,000 civil servants forced to return received bonuses.

English: <http://www.thediplomat.ro/articol.php?id=3448>

Slovakia

Gender gap narrows according to an official report

June 28, 2012

Although a gender salary gap persists in Slovakia at about 20%, the gap has decreased by one-fifth in the past five years, states a document drafted by the Labour Ministry and approved by the government on 27 June. The report states that women make up 80% of the people employed in health care, social work and education. However, when it comes to the private sector, where salaries are higher, women represent only 42% of all employees.

English: [http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/46812/10/labour_ministry_says_gender ...](http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/46812/10/labour_ministry_says_gender...)

Agreement reached on self-employed

June 25, 2012

According to the Labour and Finance ministries an agreement on the exact amount of the new levies has been reached in a meeting with organisations representing self-employed persons on 14 June. Higher future pensions as well as more money flowing into Slovakia's social insurer are the two main benefits expected from an increase in payroll levies to be paid by self-employed.

English: [http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/46778/3/agreement_reached_on_self ...](http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/46778/3/agreement_reached_on_self...)

Spain

National demonstration against public sector cuts

June 28, 2012

Trade union confederations CCOO and UGT announced another large demonstration against cuts in the public sector with a fourth day of action on 28 June. The unions have vowed they will not cease actions until the government changes its austerity politics.

Spanish: [http://www.fspugt.es/uploads/documentos/documentos_manifiesto_jornadas_de ...](http://www.fspugt.es/uploads/documentos/documentos_manifiesto_jornadas_de...)

Coal miners' strike escalates

June 26, 2012

Coal miners in the northern of Spain went on strike, staging protests in northern cities and Madrid. The actions started in response to a government announcement that state aid to the sector will be reduced by 64%. Trade unions CCOO and UGT have announced their support for the miners' strike that enjoyed 100% participation. Smaller actions involving blockades of major roads in the north were not authorised by the unions. The unions argue that the large scale retraction of public subsidies will kill the mining sector, which has already lost over 40,000 jobs in the last 20 years. Getting increasingly desperate, the miners have started to march on Madrid, vowing to walk the near 400 kilometre distance and hoping to be joined by more and more protesters along the way. Despite controversial actions and some clashes with the police, left wing parties, local and regional governments and trade union confederations across Europe have come out in support of the miners.

English: [http://www.icem.org/en/78-ICEM-InBrief/5040-Spain-s-Coal-Miners ...](http://www.icem.org/en/78-ICEM-InBrief/5040-Spain-s-Coal-Miners...)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-18466927>
<http://www.industrialunion.org/support-spanish-miners>
[http://www.expatica.com/es/news/spanish-news/spanish-miners-begin-march-on-madrid ...](http://www.expatica.com/es/news/spanish-news/spanish-miners-begin-march-on-madrid...)
http://elpais.com/elpais/2012/06/20/inenglish/1340199746_021519.html

Strike at Crown Cork Sevilla

June 19, 2012

Workers at metal container manufacturer Crown Cork in Sevilla have started industrial action in reaction to the company's refusal to negotiate a new collective agreement. The collective agreement that is currently being applied formally expired in 2008 but four years of talks have not led to a new agreement. The workers went on strike in the beginning of May and unions report a 100% mobilisation. Unions have also called for the support of other unions, asking employees of Spanish and foreign companies that make use of Crown Cork's services to suspend their contracts until the company management gets back to the negotiation table.

English and French: <http://www.eucoban.eu/EMF/Reports/Conflict-in-Crown-Cork-in-Sevilla>

Sweden

Report on working conditions

June 27, 2012

Like its Finnish counterpart (see under Finland), the Swedwatch has visited several Chinese factories that make products for Swedish companies. According to a new report from the labour rights watchdog the working conditions were bad, with the worst being the suppliers of sun chairs and air mattresses for Jula and Biltema. They found work places where people worked on contract, without breaks, and in bad lighting. Workers struggle with extremely long work days, dangerous machinery, and bad working environments.

English: <http://www.thelocal.se/41672/20120627/>

Switzerland

Pressure leads Merck Serono management to the table

June 28, 2012

The management of Merck Serono said it had finished the consultation process with trade unions over the closing of the Geneva plant. It was expected to come with a final decision by the 19 June. Trade union Unia announced a day of action on 20 June that was followed by a strike. During a mass meeting after four days of strike it became clear for the 400 involved workers that the management was forced to return to the negotiation table to negotiate a social plan.

English: [http://www.industriall-union.org/unia-fights-to-save-jobs-at-merck-serono ...](http://www.industriall-union.org/unia-fights-to-save-jobs-at-merck-serono...)

French: [http://www.unia.ch/news_aktion_fr.9.0.html ...](http://www.unia.ch/news_aktion_fr.9.0.html...)

German: [http://www.unia.ch/news_aktionen.9.0.html ...](http://www.unia.ch/news_aktionen.9.0.html...)

Postal workers protest against layoffs and worse working conditions

June 13, 2012

Postal workers unions Syndicom organised a protest at the PostLogistics sorting centre in Dailens after an announcement that it is laying off 250 workers despite running a profit last years. Syndicom claims PostLogistics intends to fire the workers in order to re-hire them as self-employed contractors. The protest is aggravated by PostLogistics further plans to increase working hours, decrease holidays, lower starting salaries, and worsen social benefits in the next collective agreement.

English: [http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Apps/uni.nsf/pages/homepageEn ...](http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Apps/uni.nsf/pages/homepageEn...)

Turkey

107-day strike at Tate & Lyle comes to an end

June 26, 2012

On 20 June trade union Tekgida-Is and the management of amylum starch corporation Tate & Lyle in Adana reached a settlement on wages and social benefits. The agreement comes after a 107 day strike that received support from international unions, whose affiliates were urged to send letters to Tate & Lyle requesting a proper social dialogue. It is the first time that workers at Tate & Lyle Ardana managed to significantly improve wages and working conditions through collective bargaining.

English: <http://cms.iuf.org/?q=node/1766>

Prominent union leaders arrested and offices raided

June 25, 2012

On 25 June police raided the offices of education union Eğitim Sen and the Confederation of Public Employees (KESK). The police also searched the houses of prominent union leaders, confiscating documents regarding their union work. Union leaders were detained in over 20 cities, including KESK President Lami Ozgen; the General Secretary of the Health and Social Services Union (SES), Mehmet Siddik Akin; the General Secretary of the All Municipality and Local Administrations workers' union (Tüm Bel Sen), İzzet Alpergin; and the President of the Agriculture, Forest, Livestock Service Workers' Union (Tarım Orkam Sen), Metin Vuranok. Trade unions across Europe have condemned the attack on the unionists.

English: http://www.ei-ie.org/en/news/news_details/2214

Escalation of dispute after aviation striking ban becomes law

June 13, 2012

President Abdullah Gül has signed the law banning strikes in the aviation sector that was approved by Parliament earlier, despite large scale protests from aviation union Hava-Is. Union members initiated a one-day slow-strike leading to the cancellation of nearly 200 flights last month, as reported in the May issue of CBN, after the government announced the amendment that would make strikes in the aviation sector illegal. In response Turkish Airlines has fired 305 cabin crew and technical staff who participated in the strike. Hava-Is will appeal both the legislation and the dismissals in court and has received widespread international support, amongst others from the ITF, AFL-CIO and the ITUC. In the meantime the airport security commission has banned all demonstrations and acts of protest. The protest originates in the failure to produce any collective agreement after plans to repeal existing social rights and wages.

English: <http://www.itfglobal.org/press-area/index.cfm/pressdetail/7445>

[http://bianet.org/english/labor/139050-all-acts-of-protest-prohibited-at-ataturk ...](http://bianet.org/english/labor/139050-all-acts-of-protest-prohibited-at-ataturk...)

[http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/airline-staff-start-indefinite-strike ...](http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/airline-staff-start-indefinite-strike...)

[http://www.todayszaman.com/news-282156-union-appeals-thy-decision ...](http://www.todayszaman.com/news-282156-union-appeals-thy-decision...)
[http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/law-banning-aviation-strikes-becomes ...](http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/law-banning-aviation-strikes-becomes...)

Public defenders demand higher wages

June 5, 2012

Approximately 1000 public defenders went on a non-unionised strike this month demanding higher wages. The public defenders claim their wages used to be equal to those of judges and prosecutors but are now only one third of the former's.

English: [http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/public-defenders-protest-for-wages ...](http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/public-defenders-protest-for-wages...)

United Kingdom

Fire fighters in Essex to go on strike

June 22, 2012

Fire fighters in Essex country have voted in favour of industrial action against further cuts in the fire department's budget. The fire fighters say they are already dangerously understaffed and fear further spending reductions will put them at even more risk. In reaction, the Fire Authority chairman stated that the fighters' jobs are secure and therefore they have no cause for complaint. 'This is 2012, not the 1970s', he added.

English: [http://www.thisistotalexsex.co.uk/Firefighters-strike-cuts-opposition ...](http://www.thisistotalexsex.co.uk/Firefighters-strike-cuts-opposition...)

Private sector bus drivers' industrial action for Olympic bonus pay

June 22, 2012

In the first London-wide strike of bus drivers in 30 years, workers at all 21 bus companies joined the strike action. Unite had started a strike ballot among bus drivers from private companies, who demanded a bonus for working during the Olympic games. On Friday 8 June over 20,000 members of Unite working for 20 London bus operators, including Go Ahead, Stagecoach, London United, Arriva, Metrolink, First and Abellio backed strike action by an average of 94%. Union officials say other transport workers get bonuses between £500 and £2,000 as a compensation for the enormous increase in work load and work pressure. Transport for London stated that the workers will be paid overtime. The disruption began on the first shift on Friday 22 June around 3.00am and finished at the end of the night shift on Saturday 23 June despite court injunctions for three of the 21 strikes. Unions say that, due to many of the companies being owned by multinational companies, they hope their action will have consequences for bonus payments to transport workers during all major sports events.

English: [http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/transport/strike-ballot-by-bus-workers ...](http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/transport/strike-ballot-by-bus-workers...)
[http://www.unitetheunion.org/news__events/latest_news/london_buses_to_come ...](http://www.unitetheunion.org/news__events/latest_news/london_buses_to_come...)
[http://www.itfglobal.org/news-online/index.cfm/newsdetail/7541/region ...](http://www.itfglobal.org/news-online/index.cfm/newsdetail/7541/region...)

Strike at Ford against two-tier workforce proposal

June 19, 2012

Members of GMB and Unite unions at Ford have organised a 24 hour strike after talks over pay rates and pensions broke down. In an attempt to avoid the strike, management and unions met but were unable to resolve the conflict. The unions object to the proposed lower pay rate for new employees and their exclusion from the pension fund. Ford also refused to give guarantees that it will not close the pension fund. The walkout at Ford is the first since the 1980s.

English: http://www.gmb.org.uk/newsroom/latest_news/gmb_strike_at_fords.aspx

Tyne and Wear Metro strike called off

June 15, 2012

After lengthy and tough negotiations, including a 24-hour strike on Thursday 7th of June, Tyne and Wear Metro unions and owner NEXUS reached a pay deal. The deal means the looming strike for the 21st of June is called off. Unions and employers agreed to a pay offer of 2.1% or a £520 pay increase, whichever is the greater, up to 3%, a £300 payment, plus a one-off bonus payment of £200 and additional travel benefits.

The pay rise will have to be financed through efficiency cuts elsewhere in the organization.

English: [http://www.journallive.co.uk/north-east-news/todays-news/2012/06/09 ...](http://www.journallive.co.uk/north-east-news/todays-news/2012/06/09...)
[http://www.aslef.org.uk/information/133080/aslef_drivers_in_action ...](http://www.aslef.org.uk/information/133080/aslef_drivers_in_action...)
[http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/north-east-news/evening-chronicle-news ...](http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/north-east-news/evening-chronicle-news...)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-18454424>

Public service unions call for boycott voluntary overtime

June 12, 2012

The public and commercial services union (PCS) has called on public sector workers to refuse to work any voluntary overtime until the end of July. Balloted union members voted in favour of the overtime ban as a method of industrial action to prevent employers from catching up after the sector-wide strike in May. The unions are protesting job losses, salary cuts and pension cuts in the public sector. PCS announced its main actions will be geared towards a large coalition action in autumn; until then, it will continue with smaller scale walk outs and strikes.

English: [http://www.pcs.org.uk/en/news_and_events/pcs_comment ...](http://www.pcs.org.uk/en/news_and_events/pcs_comment...)
[http://www.pcs.org.uk/en/news_and_events/pcs_comment ...](http://www.pcs.org.uk/en/news_and_events/pcs_comment...)

Jersey bus drivers receive short-term 3% pay increase

June 7, 2012

Unions and Connex have agreed to a 3% pay rise as well as the recruitment of four more bus drivers. A strike by bus drivers in Jersey was called off when talks between union representatives and Connex management took a turn for the better. Strikes that remained scheduled for the 14th and 25th of June were also cancelled when a pay deal was reached on 7 June. Union officials have started lobbying Transport and Technical Services (TTS) that the pay increase has to be maintained by any company taking over the exploitation of the bus service after the Connex contract with the municipality expires at the end of the year. The TTS has reacted that conditions were already set in the tender that was published earlier and pay is likely to return to previous levels if another company is rewarded the new contract.

English: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-jersey-18350489>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-jersey-18394613>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-jersey-18413620>

Possible strike at University of Birmingham

June 6, 2012

Unison has started a ballot among members on a possible industrial action at Birmingham University, the first in 30 years. The support staff at the university is disappointed that contrary to some other universities, Birmingham has refused the demanded 2% wage increase that would lift pay to the living wage level. University management says that at 1,2% its offer regarding the support staff wages exceeds that of any other employee group at the university, while it remains the only group to decline the wage offer.

English: [http://www.birminghampost.net/news/west-midlands-news/2012/06/06 ...](http://www.birminghampost.net/news/west-midlands-news/2012/06/06...)

New local government pensions scheme proposal ready for ballot

June 1, 2012

Trade unions and the local government association (LGA) have agreed on a proposal for a new local government pension scheme. The new scheme includes a switch from a final salary to a career average revalued earnings scheme, a higher accrual rate, a pension age synchronised with each individual worker's state pension age and no change in employee contributions. Both unions and the LGA will start consultations among their members and aim to implement the proposals by August. The new scheme will come into force from the 1st of April 2014.

English: http://www.unison.org.uk/asppresspack/pressrelease_view.asp?id=2713

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