

collective bargaining

Issue 6/2015 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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European sources

OECD: Unit labour costs up 0.5% in the first quarter of 2015

June 23, 2015

Unit labour costs (ULCs) in the OECD area rose by 0.5% in the first quarter of 2015, the same rate as in the previous quarter. In the Euro area, ULCs increased (by 0.3% compared to 0.2% in the previous quarter), driven by a slight upturn in labour compensation costs (0.5% compared to 0.4%), with labour productivity growth holding steady at 0.2%. Labour productivity fell in the United Kingdom (minus 0.3%).

English: http://www.oecd.org/std/labour-stats/ULC_2015Q1_Eng.pdf

Inequality documented and analysed

June 22, 2015

Issue 7 of the Queries journal is dedicated to the growing inequality in our societies. The issue includes essays and columns of Joseph Stiglitz, Antonella Stirati, Gary Dymski, Richard Wilkinson and others. Stiglitz signals that the ratio of wages to productivity is going down and the ratio of CEO pay to worker pay has gone up. The bargaining power of workers has declined as unions got weaker. Moreover, their bargaining power has been further weakened by the asymmetric rules governing globalisation. Corporate governance laws provide relatively little check on abuses of corporate power by CEOs. His recommendations that could help to reduce before tax and transfer inequality are: higher minimum wages, stronger unions, better education, better anti-trust and corporate governance laws and stronger law enforcement.

English: <http://www.queries-feps.eu ...>

Share of women in trade union movement is growing

June 6, 2015

A report by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) has found that women form a growing share of trade union members and the 43% of leadership positions in the European federations are held by women. The report also notes that only 14.5% of real leadership positions in the national federations are held by women. The report highlights the importance of women in halting the decline in unionisation.

English: <http://www.epsu.org/a/11474>

Austria

Persons at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion

June 22, 2015

19.2% of the population are reported to have been at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion in 2014, according to the EU-Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) compiled by Statistics Austria. 414 000 persons or 5% of the population were facing a severe financial situation because they have been at multiple risks of poverty or social exclusion – two or more of the sub indicators of the Europe 2020 social strategy applied to them. Two thirds of all persons at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion (1 105 000 persons) have been affected for the last two years or longer.

English: http://www.statistik.at/web_en/press/102909.html

German: http://www.statistik.at/web_de/presse/102889.html

Index of agreed minimum wages updated

June 15, 2015

The Index of Agreed Minimum Wages 06 (basis: 2006 annual average = 100) measures the minimum wage trend. The index is a key evaluation criterion for wage and salary negotiations and, in conjunction with other indices relating to wage and price trends, an important and up-to-date economic indicator. In May 2015 the index reached a value of 125.3 (provisional figure), 0.3% higher than the previous month. The rate of increase compared with May 2014 was 2.0%.

English: http://www.statistik.at/web_en/statistics/PeopleSociety/social_statistics ...

German: http://www.statistik.at/web_de/statistiken/menschen_und_gesellschaft/soziales ...

Belgium

Asylum workers strike against cuts

June 23, 2015

Employees of the Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers Fedasil at 5 asylum centres have staged a 24-hour strike. The unions called their members out on strike in protest against cuts. The industrial action took place at the reception centres in Jodoigne (Walloon Brabant), Kapellen, Broechem (Antwerp)

province), Poelkapelle (West Flanders) and Klein Kasteeltje in Brussels. The action was being taken against Fedasil plans to save 20 million euro. The trade unions admit that savings need to be made, but the announced cuts are being implemented without consultation.

English: <http://deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws.english/News ...>

Bill to tackle social fraud

June 5, 2015

A new bill drafted by the Federal Employment Ministry intends to tackle social fraud in the construction industry. Once the bill is passed, construction companies that work with fraudulent and dishonest subcontractors will be held responsible for any social fraud committed from day one. The bill is based on an EU directive to tackle social fraud and unfair competition in the construction industry.

English: <http://deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws.english/Economy ...>

Bulgaria

Labour cost index 1st quarter 2015

June 19, 2015

Preliminary data of the statistical office NSI for the first quarter of 2015 indicate that the total hourly labour cost rose by 6.9% compared to the first quarter of 2014. The total hourly labour cost grew by 5.6% in industry, by 8.6% in services and by 7.1% in construction. The breakdown by economic activities shows that the highest annual growths in total labour costs are recorded in 'Administrative and support service activities' (15.2%), 'Professional, scientific and technical activities' (12.1%) and 'Arts, entertainment and recreation' (10.1%).

English: <http://www.nsi.bg/sites/default ...>

Civil servants protest in front of Parliament

June 14, 2015

Civil servants have announced a ten day protest, taking to the streets in the beginning of June. Police and border police officers, firemen and prison guards are protesting against a proposed pension reform, bad working conditions and the lack of a real social dialogue.

English: <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2015/06/14 ...>

Strike threat in Maritsa Iztok mines

June 10, 2015

The trade unions of mine workers have addressed Bulgaria's Parliament, the government, the Energy Ministry and the Commission for Energy and Water Regulation threatening strike action. The mine workers are worried that an announced power price hike will increase production costs, resulting in a lack of funding for the state owned mine.

English: <http://www.novinite.com/articles/169133/Trade+Unions+Ready+to+Organize+Strike ...>

Poverty and social assistance

June 2, 2015

The Institute for Market Economics (IME) has published two research papers on the topic of poverty and social assistance in Bulgaria. The first report focuses on the extent of poverty in the country, and its purpose is to highlight the vulnerable groups (children, the economically inactive and the unemployed). Half of all unemployed are at risk of falling into poverty, and a third is at risk of falling into 'deep' poverty. The largest group among those living below the poverty line are pensioners. The second report pays attention to some shortcomings of leading programmes in the field of social assistance. The main goal of the study is to distinguish the sources of inefficient allocation of public assistance under some programmes and to propose possible solutions that could cause more efficient and purposeful assistance for people who need it the most.

English: <http://ime.bg/en/articles/poverty-and-social-assistance-in-bulgaria/>

Croatia

Standard of living among lowest in the EU

June 16, 2015

The standard of living in Croatia in 2014 was among the lowest in the EU, along with the standard of living in Romania and Bulgaria, show estimates on consumption and GDP per capita published by the EU's statistical office Eurostat. Actual Individual Consumption (AIC) is a measure of the material welfare of households. AIC per capita expressed in Purchasing Power Standards in Croatia in 2014 was as much as 41% below the EU average, according to preliminary Eurostat estimates. In 2013, it was 39% below the average.

English: <http://dalje.com/en-economy/standard-of-living-in-croatia ...>

Cyprus

Workers protest against privatisations

June 24, 2015

The trade unions at the semi-state Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (CyTA) started the first in a series of protests against the government's denationalisation programme. Workers held signs criticising the philosophy of privatisations. The trade unions are not satisfied with the government's commitment that work positions at CyTA are safe even in the event of privatisation and say that whether an employee will remain a public employee is not the only important thing. Also important are the rest of his career, and prospects of promotion.

English: <http://cyprus-mail.com/2015/06/24/cyta-staff-protest-against-privatisations/>

Czech Republic

Banker sees fall in unemployment and increased wages

June 9, 2015

National Bank Governor Miroslav Singer said at a discussion meeting with industrialists that unemployment will be falling to record lows above 5 percent next year, which will lead to wage hikes. Wages have not much increased since the crisis. Singer said the Czech Republic has overcome the longest crisis that is ending, as shown by economic data, and a slightly lower wage growth is the biggest surprise.

English: <http://www.praguepost.com/czech-news/48226-tuesday-news-briefing-june-9-2015>

Denmark

Clash with Ryanair continues

June 23, 2015

Ryanair was summoned before a labour tribunal in Copenhagen on June 15 to defend the practice at the centre of a long pending controversy (see also earlier Newsletters): its hiring of Denmark-based pilots and cabin crew on Irish labour contracts. Ryanair says the arrangement, which it uses in other countries, is legal and that its employees 'enjoy high pay [and] job security'. Critics say it allows Ryanair to avoid rules on wages, social benefits, and worker protections required by Danish laws. The tribunal is reviewing the case.

English: <http://skift.com/2015/06/23/denmark-and-ryanair-continue-to-tussle ...>

High wages and being competitive

June 9, 2015

A study by the labour market organisation Arbejderbevægelsens Erhvervsråd (AE) claims that industry in the country has not been this competitive since 1995, concluding that the country can compete with the likes of China, Poland and Germany despite the high level of wages. Observers stated that employees at industrial companies create much more value than they cost. Generally speaking, it's therefore not a problem for

industry that workers receive high wages.

English: [http://cphpost.dk/news/business/new-study-industry-in-denmark-competitive ...](http://cphpost.dk/news/business/new-study-industry-in-denmark-competitive-...)

Estonia

Average monthly gross wage at 1005 euro

June 17, 2015

According to Statistics Estonia the average monthly gross wages and salaries were 1,005 euro in 2014 and the average hourly gross wages and salaries were 6.14 euro. Compared to 2013, the average monthly gross wages and salaries increased by 5.9% and the average hourly gross wages and salaries by 7.2%. 2013 saw the fastest growth of monthly gross wages and salaries after the recession (7.0%), while in 2014 the growth of monthly gross wages and salaries slowed down.

English: [http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/analytics ...](http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/analytics-...)

Finland

Pseudo agreement not valid says court

June 25, 2015

The Helsinki Court of Appeal has ruled that the so-called collective agreement which was concocted by employers for workers distributing unaddressed mail and free-sheet newspapers is not legally valid. The sector had, from the end of 2009, a generally binding collective agreement. Employers were unhappy with it and decided to set up their own 'trade union' (called SME), composed of various directors from the major employer in this sector, Janton Corporation. In no time SME made its own 'collective agreement' with the employers. The Court of Appeal has overturned an earlier decision of the District Court and has stated that SME cannot be seen as a representative trade union with a right to conclude collective agreements.

English: [http://heikkijokinen.info/en/trade-union-news-from-finland/811-major-victory ...](http://heikkijokinen.info/en/trade-union-news-from-finland/811-major-victory-...)

National wage agreement raises monthly wages by €16

June 16, 2015

All employers' associations and all but two trade unions have accepted a national wage agreement that will raise wages by €16 or 0.43% per month, whichever is greater. The national wage agreement was initially concluded in October 2013 for two years and has now been extended for a third. Together with a cut in income tax for low and middle income earners, the wage pact is meant to maintain the purchasing power of workers. Two unions did not sign the agreement, transport workers' union AKT and the Finnish seafarers' union. They will negotiate their own sectoral agreements.

English: [http://heikkijokinen.info/en/trade-union-news-from-finland/804-national-wage ...](http://heikkijokinen.info/en/trade-union-news-from-finland/804-national-wage-...)

France

Total workers strike for survival of plant

June 30, 2015

Total SA workers have called for a country-wide strike 2 July at refineries, oil depots and crude import terminals to protest a plan to stop processing the fuel at the La Mede plant on the south coast. In calling for a wider strike, trade union CGT wants to protest the planned 'death' of crude refining at La Mede. The union also called for blockades of Total service stations around the country every Thursday during the summer months until the oil company withdraws its proposals.

English: [http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-06-30/total-workers-call ...](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-06-30/total-workers-call-...)

Channel tunnel services blocked, ferry workers continue strike

June 30, 2015

A series of strikes at Calais by ferry workers caused the closure of the port and brought chaos for passengers travelling between the UK and France. There were long queues for the Eurostar. Chaotic scenes were sparked by the strike actions. Employees of MyFerryLink are protesting against plans to sell two of their ferries to rival firm DFDS in an attempt to save their 600 jobs. Eurotunnel suspended its services for safety reasons after port workers trespassed on its tracks. Workers renewed a blockade of the northern French port of Calais after a court rejected their bid to extend the service's charter contract with Eurotunnel.

English: [http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jun/30/cross-channel-ferries ...](http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jun/30/cross-channel-ferries...)
<http://www.france24.com/en/20150630-channel-tunnel-closed-protesting-ferry-workers>

Air traffic controllers call for strike

June 23, 2015

Trade unions representing the air traffic controllers have called for a strike on July 2nd and 3rd. Two unions announced that the workers were fed up with their salaries and the lack of resources pumped into their industry. The unions want fresh talks over the working conditions of its members and a particular item of contention is the pushing back of the retirement age for air traffic controllers from the age of 57 to 59.

English: <http://www.thelocal.fr/20150623/frances-air-traffic-controllers-to-go-on-strike>

Germany

Flight attendants postpone strike

June 30, 2015

After progress in the negotiations on the airline's pension scheme the Lufthansa flight attendants have postponed a planned strike until mid-July at the earliest. Lufthansa had been facing a 30 June deadline to make concessions to cabin crew regarding improved pensions and higher pay or potentially deal with a strike during the busy summer holiday season. The trade union will wait for the talks in the next weeks, whether it gets to the point where a collective agreement can be concluded that can permanently avert the strikes.

English: [http://www.dw.com/en/ufo-cancels-planned-lufthansa-strike ...](http://www.dw.com/en/ufo-cancels-planned-lufthansa-strike...)

Talks resumed at Deutsche Post after expansion of strike

June 30, 2015

Deutsche Post and trade union Ver.di have agreed to return to the negotiating table after four weeks of strikes by postal workers. After organising large scale protests, as reported in last month's newsletter, workers at Deutsche Post went on strike. The workers are protesting against a reform which would have thousands of colleagues re-employed at regional subsidiaries for lower wages. The trade union claims that the postal giant breached its collective bargaining agreement with its 140,000 workers regarding the outsourcing of work, by splitting operations into 49 regional delivery companies to avoid the terms of a national agreement. The workers have also asked for a one-off €500 payment to every worker in 2015 and a pay rise of 2.7 percent next year. Deutsche Post rejected all proposals, arguing the company is making losses and is not in a position to raise wages.

English: [http://postandparcel.info/65953/news/companies/deutsche-post ...](http://postandparcel.info/65953/news/companies/deutsche-post...)

Collective agreement in waste sector

June 15, 2015

Trade union Ver.di and the employers in the private waste sector have concluded a new collective agreement. The agreement will raise the minimum wage to €8.94 from 1 July 2015 and to €9.10 from 1 January 2016. According to the trade union around 20,000 workers in the waste sector will profit from this increase of the minimum wage level.

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

Day care centres' strike suspended as conflict moves into mediation

June 6, 2015

Strike actions by day care workers, reported in the last two newsletters, were suspended as trade union Ver.di and VKA employers agreed to enter an arbitration process. Bone of contention is the low pay scale in

the sector, resulting in the workers being low paid relative to their tasks, responsibilities and skills.

English: <http://www.epsu.org/a/11496>

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

Greece

International trade unions worried about Greek crisis

June 30, 2015

Several European trade unions and international trade union bodies have called on the negotiators to work towards a balanced deal. A blog of the US confederation AFL-CIO criticises the IMF and EC policy that forces the country to weaken its collective bargaining structures, lower its labour standards and wages, so that the people are forced to bow to the will of the market. The international trade union confederation ITUC concludes that years of failed austerity policies imposed on the country have impoverished millions and actually worsened the debt crisis. The ETUC is warning for a Grexit that would undermine the credibility of the euro, could derail Europe's modest economic recovery and create tensions in South East Europe; all for the sake of imposing yet more austerity on a country already on its knees.

English: [https://www.etuc.org/press/think-long-and-hard ...](https://www.etuc.org/press/think-long-and-hard...)

[http://www.ituc-csi.org/greece-bank-closures-political ...](http://www.ituc-csi.org/greece-bank-closures-political...)

<http://www.aflcio.org/Blog/Global-Action/Economics-as-Religion>

Sailors postpone strike action

June 28, 2015

Ferries will be operating normally this week as seamen have decided to call off their strike due to the latest political and economic developments. Trade union PNO representatives called the strike because they feel their collective work contracts are not being respected by some firms. However, PNO said that the strike would be postponed so passengers would be free to travel ahead of Sunday's referendum on whether Greeks should accept lenders' bailout proposals.

English: [http://www.ekathimerini.com/198506/article/ekathimerini/news/sailors-call-off ...](http://www.ekathimerini.com/198506/article/ekathimerini/news/sailors-call-off...)

Ambulance workers consider industrial action

June 18, 2015

The national health service is crumbling under the strain of austerity as health spending has been slashed in half in the last five years. Ambulance workers have been threatening to strike over unpaid overtime, with claims they have not received payments for night shifts and holidays since December 2014, meaning they have 200-500 euro less every month. So far, ambulance workers have suspended their strike as they do not want to endanger public health especially with the pressure posed by the tourist season.

English: [http://www.euronews.com/2015/06/18/greece-s-ambulance-service ...](http://www.euronews.com/2015/06/18/greece-s-ambulance-service...)

Unionists occupy finance ministry

June 11, 2015

Trade unionists have occupied the finance ministry as talks between the Greek government and the country's lenders intensify. While growing numbers of European heads of state and government are pressuring the Tsipras government to accept a bailout deal, people in the streets of Athens are afraid any new deal will demand further painful cuts. Public broadcaster ERT, reopened after the last change of government, reports that trade unionists are calling on the government to make deals with the country's pensioners, unemployed and precarious workers in mind.

English: [http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/1st-leadtrade-unionists-occupy ...](http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/1st-leadtrade-unionists-occupy...)

Hungary

Plan to hire public workers out

June 29, 2015

The government has planned a modification of a law on public works (established in 2011) that could give local mayors the possibility of hiring out public workers to small- and medium-sized companies wishing to employ public workers as seasonal labourers. Workers that decline can be barred from performing public work for three months. Moreover, those agreeing to perform seasonal work will be put in a vulnerable position in that if they quit their jobs or if their job is terminated by mutual consent, they will be barred from performing public work for three months. The opposition labelled the plans as being part of a new feudalism.

English: [http://budapestbeacon.com/public-policy/mayors-to-farm-out-public-workers ...](http://budapestbeacon.com/public-policy/mayors-to-farm-out-public-workers...)

Granite turbine mechanics prepare for strike

June 10, 2015

The Federation of Chemical Workers (VDSZ) has announced it will be taking strike action at Granite Hungary. Granite workers, who conduct maintenance of turbines and compressors, are paid less than their colleagues in other countries for the same work. Point of contention is the €3 per hour low pay rate for mechanics while on call. The mechanics have also complained that employment conditions during jobs on third locations are insufficient. Despite an agreement with regional Granite employers closed in April 2015 to improve conditions, workers now report that nothing has changed and that industrial action will be taken.

English: [http://www.industrialunion.org/hungarian-turbine-mechanics-prepare-to-strike ...](http://www.industrialunion.org/hungarian-turbine-mechanics-prepare-to-strike...)

Iceland

Nurses' strike ban led to resignations – final pay deal reached

June 24, 2015

After a marathon 13-hour negotiation session, the Icelandic Association of Nurses (FÍH) struck a deal with the State mediator on pay and working conditions and an agreement was signed. Nurses went on strike on 27 May and the Icelandic Parliament ('Alþingi') passed legislation on 13 June forcing them back to work and to the negotiating table. The new deal provides for an 18.6% pay rise over the next three years and will be up for renegotiation in 2019. The conflict centred on the low pay received by the nurses, who are allegedly receiving job offers in other Scandinavian countries. Talks between the hospitals and trade unions, however, failed to yield an agreement. With no resolution in sight, Parliament ordered the nurses back to work and the conflict into arbitration. Following the strike ban, several media reported that nurses were handing in resignations.

English: [http://icelandmonitor.mbl.is/news/politics_and_society/2015/06/16/mass_nurse ...](http://icelandmonitor.mbl.is/news/politics_and_society/2015/06/16/mass_nurse...)
[http://icelandmonitor.mbl.is/news/politics_and_society/2015/06/24/nurse_dispute ...](http://icelandmonitor.mbl.is/news/politics_and_society/2015/06/24/nurse_dispute...)
[http://icelandmonitor.mbl.is/news/politics_and_society/2015/06/12/unions_slam ...](http://icelandmonitor.mbl.is/news/politics_and_society/2015/06/12/unions_slam...)

Deal on the eve of a massive strike

June 23, 2015

Only a deal on pay and work conditions could avoid strike action by over 10,000 Icelandic craftsmen. If talks had not been successful, union members would down tools on 23 June causing significant disruption in various sectors of the Icelandic economy. However, the trade unions and the employers' organisations concluded a last minute agreement on pay and working conditions that covers members of six unions in different fields, including hairdressing, bookmaking, food production, electrical work, marine engineering and metal technology. Strike action – scheduled to begin a few hours later at midnight – was called off.

English: [http://icelandreview.com/news/2015/06/23/industrial-workers-sign-agreement ...](http://icelandreview.com/news/2015/06/23/industrial-workers-sign-agreement...)

Ireland

Breach of agreement leads to industrial action

June 28, 2015

Workers at the Bulmers brewery in Clonmel are threatening strike action in a row over redundancy terms. Members of trade union Unite have voted in favour of industrial action after the company allegedly breached a collective agreement with the unions when making a worker redundant. Despite an unambiguous agreement concluded in 2009 between Bulmers and the unions, the company made one of the Unite members redundant on terms which will amount to around half of what was agreed. Inexplicably, the

company informed the workers represented by Unite that they were not covered by the 2009 agreement.

English: [http://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/workers-at-bulmers-brewery-threatening ...](http://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/workers-at-bulmers-brewery-threatening...)

Public sector pay deal not yet in the pocket

June 24, 2015

The recently concluded Lansdowne Road agreement is still not accepted by several unions. As part of the agreement, which was reached in May, there will be a €1,000 salary increase in 2015 for those earning less than €65,000. Members of the Civil and Public Services Union (CPSU) are becoming increasingly vocal about their disappointment over the terms of working hours and money, whilst the Association of Higher Civil and Public Servants (AHCPS) announced it will be recommending its members to vote No in an upcoming ballot. The 23-member standing committee of the secondary school teachers' union ASTI urged the organisation's executive to recommend rejection. Trade unions Siptu, Impact, INTO and INMOO recommended to vote in favour; other unions still have to come up with a final recommendation.

English: [http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/asti-committee-backs-rejection ...](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/asti-committee-backs-rejection...)
[http://www.independent.ie/business/jobs/two-more-unions-urge-no-vote-for-pay-deal ...](http://www.independent.ie/business/jobs/two-more-unions-urge-no-vote-for-pay-deal...)

Iconic Clerys department store sold and liquidated within hours, 460 lose jobs

June 23, 2015

The 162 year old Clerys department store in Dublin was closed within hours, leading to 460 job losses. On 11 June, the department store's US owners sold Clerys and its stock to a joint venture, which announced court appointed liquidators within hours. All 130 people employed by Clerys and a large part of the 330 employed by 50 concession holders will lose their jobs. The sudden closure and unexpected job losses sparked large scale unrest and protests, which intensified when it became clear that workers will receive no more than the statutory minimum in terms of redundancy pay. Government officials have announced to be considering a legal change, as the highly undesirable procedure in which employees of over 40 years were fired within a day's notice, is currently not against the law.

English: [http://www.rte.ie/news/2015/0616/708399-clerys-jobs ...](http://www.rte.ie/news/2015/0616/708399-clerys-jobs...)
[http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/over-12-000-people-sign-petition ...](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/over-12-000-people-sign-petition...)

Actions at Dunnes stores continue

June 9, 2015

Workers at Dunnes Stores continue to organise protest against insecure labour contracts. On 6 June, the workers took to the streets in Dublin, continuing the protests reported in last month's newsletter. The workers have been campaigning for better pay and working conditions. While several wage hikes have been proposed by Dunnes management, the company has not addressed the disputed zero hours contracts. Unions say that due to Dunnes Stores' refusal to guarantee working hours, workers could earn full time wages or nothing from one week to the next.

English: [http://www.uniglobalunion.org/news/uni-supports-dunnes-stores-workers ...](http://www.uniglobalunion.org/news/uni-supports-dunnes-stores-workers...)

Italy

Wage freeze in public sector illegal says court

June 25, 2015

The country's highest court ruled that a public-sector wage freeze in place since 2010 was illegal. The decision will force the government in next year's budget to lift the budget for around 3.5 million workers. However, the court stopped short of ordering the government to compensate workers for raises they missed out on. Making up for five years of freezes would have cost the government around €35 billion. The wage freeze was brought in by ex-premier Silvio Berlusconi's government for a three-year period, extended by successive governments, and would have run until 2017. Trade unions have always contested the measure.

English: [http://www.thelocal.it/20150625/public-sector-wage-freeze-is-illegal ...](http://www.thelocal.it/20150625/public-sector-wage-freeze-is-illegal...)

ANSA journalists on strike

June 23, 2015

The trade union of journalist inside ANSA has called a reorganisation and redevelopment, presented by the

ANSA management, unacceptable. The plan envisages 65 redundancies of journalistic staff to be managed from July 1 by resorting to the CIGS lay-off fund and/or solidarity contracts because of a reported budget-shortfall emergency estimated to be five million euros in 2015. The union will first call a general assembly of ANSA journalists.

English: [http://www.gazzettadelsud.it/news/english/148184/ANSA-on-immediate-strike ...](http://www.gazzettadelsud.it/news/english/148184/ANSA-on-immediate-strike...)

Agreement over downsizing Tenaris steel piping

June 18, 2015

Trade unions and management at steel piping manufacturer Tenaris have reached an agreement that will limit redundancies at the firm. Through the use of solidarity contracts that will reduce working hours, the number of redundancies will be reduced from 406 to 301. In addition, 120 apprentices whose contracts were not expected to be renewed will be held on. The agreement includes a voluntary retirement scheme, to which workers can enter before 2020. The large majority of the remaining redundancies will hit the firm's Dalmine facility in the north of the country.

English: [http://www.industrialunion.org/workers-approve-agreement ...](http://www.industrialunion.org/workers-approve-agreement...)

Strikes at IKEA

June 9, 2015

IKEA workers organised the first of a series of strikes on 6 June. The 16 hours strike was called in the end of May, after IKEA unilaterally renounced the collective labour agreement. Strikes took place simultaneously in eight locations; turn out reaching 95% in some stores. Trade unions have announced that these eight strikes will be followed by nationwide strikes. Among the reasons to protest was the proposal to cut extra pay for Sunday work, one of the unpopular measures announced for the 'co-workers' (as called by Ikea). Part-time workers, which in this company account for about 70% of the workforce, may lose up to 1500 euro per year.

English: [http://www.uniglobalunion.org/news/first-strike-ikea-italy-against-unilateral ...](http://www.uniglobalunion.org/news/first-strike-ikea-italy-against-unilateral...)

Latvia

Every fifth person works undeclared

June 17, 2015

According to a study by a job market portal there has been a 7% reduction in the number of persons working in Latvia who receive their salaries unofficially. Nevertheless, there are still 18% of employed persons in the country who receive their salaries 'under the table', and thus no taxes and social security contributions are being paid.

English: [http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/finances ...](http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/finances...)

Liechtenstein

Commuters keep the country going

June 9, 2015

The Principality is home to around 36,000 jobs, of which almost half are performed by the local working population. The other half, more than 18,000, are performed by workers who live over the border in the Rhine Valley area near St. Gallen, in Vorarlberg and in the region around Lake Constance and commute to Liechtenstein every day. Almost 60% of workers in Liechtenstein are employed in the services sector, with the financial services sector particularly well-developed. Just below 40% of jobs are in the industrial sector. Unemployment stays very low, over the years the percentage has gone down to 2.4%.

English: <http://www.liechtenstein-business.li/en/for-employees/cross-border-commuters/>

Updated labour market statistics (in German): [http://www.amsfl.li/ams/daten ...](http://www.amsfl.li/ams/daten...)

Lithuania

Government approves labour market amendments

June 9, 2015

The government approved amendments to the Labour Code and other legislation related to labour relations, state social insurance, employment and creation of jobs and will submit them to parliament. In the proposals the length of holidays for healthcare and education employees will be maintained. Severance pay will be increased from one monthly wage to two monthly wages. Meanwhile social insurance fee will be reduced by 1 percentage point every year starting with 2017.

English: [http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/analytics ...](http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/analytics)

Luxembourg

Conciliation between teachers and education ministry fails

June 24, 2015

The conciliation between the ministry of education and teachers unions, has collapsed. In a dispute over education reforms, reported in the January newsletter, trade unions resisted proposed budget cuts from the first announcement of the plans late 2014. The proposals aimed to cut costs, amongst others by changing a progressive cut in teaching hours of teachers over 45 into an obligation to fill these hours with other duties, such as tutoring of pupils and mentoring of young teachers. During the conciliation talks the ministry withdrew the most controversial proposal, to cut teachers' salaries during exam periods, yet several other measures remained. Trade unions Féduse, Apess and SEW have recommended to members to vote against the deal. The effect of the failure of the conciliation talks is unclear. The ministry plans to follow the deal reached in the last meeting but refuses to continue with further talks, accusing the unions of agreeing on issues in private and slamming them in public. Trade unions have announced strike action for September.

English: [http://www.wort.lu/en/politics/meisch-aims-for-july-deal-teacher-unions-threaten ...](http://www.wort.lu/en/politics/meisch-aims-for-july-deal-teacher-unions-threaten)

Dispute over social plan at outpatient care service Hëllef Doheem

June 3, 2015

A dispute has occurred between trade unions OGBL and LCGB and management of outpatient care service Hëllef Doheem, after the latter announced 90 jobs were to be axed under a social plan, as reported in last month's newsletter. The redundancies are a response to a 3.2 million deficit in 2014, with higher losses expected in 2015. Trade unions OGBL and LCGB, however, have refuted management statements that all solutions have been explored and said that alternative actions, like job retention plans, exist. Trade unions and management are currently negotiating over the social plan, for which they will be afforded two weeks before the dispute moves to an official mediator.

English: [http://www.wort.lu/en/business/social-plan-talks-labour-unions-cannot-accept ...](http://www.wort.lu/en/business/social-plan-talks-labour-unions-cannot-accept)

Malta

Industrial action in health care sector suspended after one day

June 13, 2015

Industrial action in the health sector was ordered by trade union UHM on 11 June and suspended after a meeting with the ministry on 12 June. The workers went on strike over the lack of implementation of previous agreements on parking, pay and study leave. Immediately after the start of the action, union negotiators were invited to the ministry and a deal was closed the next day.

English: [http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2015-06-13/local-news/UHM-suspends ...](http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2015-06-13/local-news/UHM-suspends)

Netherlands

The position of low-skilled workers analysed

June 25, 2015

Two institutes, the office for economic analysis CPB and the institute for social research, have examined how the labour market position of low-skilled workers has changed in recent years. The resulting report describes

several aspects, including unemployment, poverty, precarious employment and pay. The pay gap between low-skilled and highly skilled widened between 1990 and 2005, as the hourly pay of low-skilled remained virtually flat, at around 17 euro gross (after adjustment to inflation), whilst highly skilled hourly pay increased steadily, from 24 to 31 euro gross. Moreover, low-skilled workers tend to work more than average in sectors in which competition is very heavily based on price and work is increasingly outsourced.

Dutch (with an extensive English summary): [http://www.cpb.nl/publicatie/de-onderkant-van ...](http://www.cpb.nl/publicatie/de-onderkant-van...)

Union takes legal action in transport against unfair competition

June 20, 2015

The FNV trade union is taking legal action against transport company Vos for unfair competition and for exploiting its Romanian and Lithuanian drivers. The union wants Vos to pay its foreign drivers back pay and compensation, arguing they should fall under the Dutch pay and conditions deal. Vos is using its foreign drivers via a Romanian subsidiary Vosescu, which, the union claims, is effectively run from the Netherlands. In addition, some drivers say they are being pressured into breaking the rules on rest periods.

English: <http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2015/06/union-takes-transport-firm-to-court-in-support-of-romanian-drivers/>

Wage gap widening

June 20, 2015

The difference in pay between senior board members and ordinary workers has widened considerably over the past two years, according to the Volkskrant newspaper. The paper bases its claims on an annual research project into wage developments at 129 large Dutch firms. It found that company chairman earn an average of €1.5m, while the average worker has a gross salary of €76,000. This means bosses are earning 20 times the average salary, compared with 16 times the average two years ago.

English: [http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2015/06/wage-gap-between-bosses-and ...](http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2015/06/wage-gap-between-bosses-and...)

Collective agreement at University Medical Centres

June 10, 2015

Staff at the University Medical Centres, totalling over 70,000 workers in hospitals linked to the country's universities, have a new collective agreement. The agreement runs from 1 April 2015 to 1 January 2018 and contains several pay increases and measures to promote standard employment. Staff will receive a retroactive pay hike of 0.8% from 1 April 2015 and further 1% increases in August 2015, 2016 and 2017. A one-off bonus of €200 will be paid to all employees in January 2016. Compensation for irregular night shifts is increased and, according to the new agreement, will also be paid when employees are on sick leave. The collective agreement furthermore foresees the abolition of zero-hour contracts at the medical centres and the conversion of temporary jobs into permanent contracts. Finally, by 2018, the university medical centres aim to employ 895 people with disabilities.

English: <http://www.epsu.org/a/11486>

Dutch: [http://www.fnv.nl/over-fnv/pers/persberichten/persarchief ...](http://www.fnv.nl/over-fnv/pers/persberichten/persarchief...)

Collective agreement on pay and job security at national railway NS

June 4, 2015

Trade unions and management of the national railway NS have reached a deal on a new collective agreement. The agreement contains a 5% wage hike over the next 2.5 years and guarantees that no permanent jobs will disappear until 2019, while 20% of the flex jobs are expected to disappear. NS will create jobs for 200 people with occupational disabilities and has agreed to look into the possibility of abolishing the lower pay scales for youth in the company.

English: [http://www.nltimes.nl/2015/06/04/train-workers-union-reaches-deal ...](http://www.nltimes.nl/2015/06/04/train-workers-union-reaches-deal...)

Norway

Mediation leads to oil-rig workers agreement

June 24, 2015

Oil-rig trade unions and employers started government-backed mediation in a final bid. The talks led to a

new wage deal for offshore oil rig workers, avoiding a strike that could have cut energy production on two North Sea oil fields. Union representatives said all workers would get a 1 percent wage increase and added that the minimum raise would be 5,500 Norwegian crowns (630 euro) per year. This means the lowest-paid workers would get an increase of more than 1 percent.

English: <http://www.themeditelegraph.com/en/markets/oil-and-energy ...>

Railway workers protest over upcoming privatisation

June 15, 2015

Railway workers halted trains across the country on 15 June to protest against government plans to liberalise the railway services. Government plans would break the monopoly of state operator NSB, allowing private companies to service train lines as well. The reform plans have not yet been voted in Parliament, but are expected to be supported by the majority of MPs.

English: <http://www.newsenglish.no/2015/06/14/union-protest-to-halt-trains/>

Poland

Unemployment drops

June 25, 2015

The Central Statistics Office (GUS) has published its annual labour market report, *The Demand for Labour in 2014*. The report provides detailed information on the number of working persons by gender, occupations, sectors and the number and structure of vacancies, including new jobs, as well as information on lost workplaces. According to the most recent figures unemployment in May 2015 stood at 10.8%, a drop from 11.2% in April. In relative terms, unemployment was the lowest since August 2009, although the actual number of unemployed individuals is slightly higher (by 13,000).

English: <http://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/labour-salaries/demand-for-labor ...>
<http://www.thenews.pl/1/12/Artykul/211371,Unemployment-drops-in-May>

Portugal

New subway strike

June 26, 2015

Subway workers in Lisbon are continuing a series of strikes against the looming privatisation of the network. The second strike in just over a week Friday closed services and came days after the centre-right government announced Spain's Grupo Avanza had won the bidding to run the Metropolitano de Lisboa. The strike was the eighth in 2015 and is motivated by concerns over pay and working conditions, as well as the quality of services delivered, as a consequence of the privatisation of the subway.

English: <http://www.timesunion.com/news/world/article/Lisbon-subway-shuts-again ...>

Nurses continue 2013 strike

June 4, 2015

Nurses have organised a 48 hour strike over pay and working hours. The Portuguese Nurses Union, representing about 40,000 nurses, said the strike is part of the protests that started in 2013, when nurses' working weeks were raised from 35 to 40 hours, overtime pay was reduced and a freeze on promotions introduced.

English: <http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article ...>

Head of pilots' union resigns after controversial strike

June 4, 2015

The head of the pilots union resigned in the wake of a controversial 10 day strike at TAP Portugal and Portugalia, reported in last month's newsletter. In the strike, pilots demanded shares of up to 20 percent in the capital of the airline that is being privatised, which was guaranteed to them in an old agreement. The strike, however, did not receive the anticipated broad support from other TAP employees and customers,

who felt the pilots were jeopardising the viability of the struggling airline.

English: <http://www.theportugalnews.com/news/head-of-pilots-union-resigns ...>

Romania

No social contributions cuts

June 26, 2015

The Chamber of Deputies voted against a reduction of the social security contributions. The Government initially planned to cut the social contributions from 10.5% to 7.5% for the employee and from 15.8% to 13.5% for the employer, starting 2017. The flat tax reduction from 16% to 14% starting 2019 was voted down as well.

English: <http://www.romania-insider.com/no-flat-tax-social-contribution-reductions ...>

Serbia

Wage indicators show decrease of pay

June 25, 2015

The average gross monthly salaries and wages paid in May 2015 amounted to dinars 60.487 (502 euro). Compared to the average gross salaries and wages paid in April 2015, this was a decrease of 3.3% in nominal terms and of 3.0% in real terms. Compared to the average gross salaries and wages paid in May 2014, the decrease was 0.8% in nominal terms and 2.3% in real terms. The average net salaries and wages paid in May 2015 totalled 43.964 dinars (366 euro). Compared to the average net salaries and wages paid in April 2015, this was 3.6% decrease in nominal terms and 3.3% decrease in real terms.

English: <http://webrzs.stat.gov.rs/WebSite/public/Publication ...>

Slovakia

Peugeot workers reach compromise on pay

June 29, 2015

Two days before an all-out strike would start at PSA Peugeot Citroen Slovakia it was possible to find a compromise on pay. Based on the agreement, employees will receive a one-off benefit of €450 to be added to their July salaries, while their total monthly wages will increase by €30 as of 2016. They will also get a bonus of €75 every quarter based on the company's results. In total this means €840 per employee. Earlier on around 400 employees of the carmaker took part in a protest calling on the company to increase salaries. According to the metal workers trade union the workers at PSA in Trnava have the lowest average salaries from among all carmakers in Slovakia (others being Volkswagen in Bratislava and Kia near Žilina). The carmaker was in a difficult situation two years ago, so the workers agreed with freezing their salaries for 2013 and 2014, but now serious profits are made again. Production operators earn €665 monthly without bonuses (up by 1.3 percent year-on-year), qualified production staff €910 a month (up by 1.3 percent), and technical staff €1,244 a month (up by 1.4 percent), according to documents from the carmaker.

English: <http://spectator.sme.sk/c/20058460/compromise-at-psa-peugeot-citroen ...>

Slovenia

Decrease of monthly earnings

June 15, 2015

Average monthly gross earnings for April 2015 amounted to 1,543.95 euro; compared to earnings for March 2015 they were 0.4% lower in nominal terms and 0.5% lower in real terms. Average monthly net earnings for April 2015 amounted to 1,005.52 euro; compared to earnings for March 2015 they were 0.3% lower in nominal terms and 0.4% lower in real terms. Comparison of the first four months of 2015 with the same period of 2014 shows that average monthly net earnings increased in the public sector by 0.8%, while in the

private sector there was no change.

English: <http://www.stat.si/StatWeb/en ...>

Spain

Groundforce personnel strikes with no agreement in sight

June 29, 2015

Groundforce, the subsidiary handling company of Globalia, will begin indefinite strikes starting in July. The strike will affect some of the main airports and various major airlines. The strike is the result of the inability to come to an agreement over the third collective bargaining agreement between the company and the trade unions. Some of the grievances are related to salary and the creation of permanent employment in all airports where the workforce with an indefinite contract is below 65%. The strike will involve over 3,500 workers including passenger and loading/unloading handling operators. Meanwhile, the Madrid Ryanair handling strike is still ongoing.

English: <http://www.flightconsulting.com/globalia-to-begin-indefinite-strikes ...>

The part-time and temporary plague

June 25, 2015

El Pais documents the destiny of today's workforce. Hundreds of thousands of people walk in and out of the Social Security offices on a daily basis. A quarter of the contracts that have been signed so far in 2015 (1,333,837 out of 5,476,901) are for less than a week's work. Only 7.9 percent of contracts signed in May were permanent. None of these temporary workers can make any plans, go on vacation, get sick, take out a mortgage or even think about accumulating enough Social Security contributions to have an adequate pension when they retire.

English: <http://elpais.com/elpais/2015/06/25/inenglish ...>

Air traffic controllers on strike

June 10, 2015

Air traffic controllers entered a second day of strike, which passed largely unnoticed due to minimum service requirements. The strike started after 61 controllers were sanctioned for participating in wild cat strikes five years ago, but continues in part due to the high levels of minimum services required by the state. In 2010, air traffic controllers in the Barcelona area effectively closed down the entire region's air space with all out strikes, leading to the military being called in to take over air traffic control. As 61 air traffic controllers were sanctioned for those actions, the controllers called a strike in protest. On the eve of the action, the government and ENAIRE, the publically owned air traffic control company, negotiated a 70% minimum service requirement. Air traffic controllers, however, argue that this high level forces 99% of the controllers to show up for shifts despite the strike and effectively intervenes with their right to strike.

English: <http://www.thelocal.es/20150610/air-traffic-controllers-strike-continues ...>

Sweden

H&M customers and the living wage for workers

June 24, 2015

The fashion company Hennes & Mauritz is focusing on its ethical profile to drive long-term sales growth as shoppers become more interested in how clothes are produced as well as their environmental impact. The fashion industry has come under increasing pressure to cut water use and pesticides in cotton farming, reduce pollution from textile factories and improve factory conditions. Notably, the living wage is now a prominent issue in the group's policy. H&M has pledged that workers at suppliers making about 60 percent of its garments should be paid a 'fair living wage' by 2018.

English: <http://thejakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/business/hm-banks-fashion-conscious ...>

Fathers to get third month of mandatory paternity leave

June 1, 2015

A reform in family policy is adding a third month to fathers' paid paternity leave. In the current system, new parents get 16 months of paid parental leave, two of which must be taken off by the father. The reform now raises this to three months that are either taken off by the father or deducted from the months of paid leave.

English: [http://jezebel.com/swedish-men-to-get-three-months-of-mandatory-paid ...](http://jezebel.com/swedish-men-to-get-three-months-of-mandatory-paid-...)

Switzerland

Governmental body signals wage differentials

June 24, 2015

SECO, the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, has resumed the experiences with the recruitment of foreign labour. Although it is formulated in diplomatic terms some conclusions are worthwhile citing. First, the wage differentials between foreign workers that are permanently residing and working in the country and the own nationals are negligible. Secondly, migrants that come in on a temporary contract earn wages that are substantially lower than comparable national workers. The authors of the study conclude that an intensified competition or substitution in certain layers of the labour market can be the consequence.

French: [http://www.swissinfo.ch/fre/libre-circulation-des-personnes ...](http://www.swissinfo.ch/fre/libre-circulation-des-personnes-...)

German: [http://www.news.admin.ch/NSBSubscriber ...](http://www.news.admin.ch/NSBSubscriber-...)

[http://www.seco.admin.ch/aktuell ...](http://www.seco.admin.ch/aktuell-...)

Top managers overpaid

June 23, 2015

In its 11th annual report on management pay Travail.Suisse revealed that remuneration for executives rose an average of 18% between 2011 and 2014 at three-quarters of major companies. The organisation analysed salaries at 27 large Swiss companies from publicly available data. The ten highest paid executives earned more than five million francs in 2014. The greatest pay gap was at Roche, the pharmaceutical giant, where outgoing chairman Franz Humer earned 15.38 million francs, 253 times as much as the lowest paid worker (61,000 francs a year) at the Basel-based company.

English: <http://www.thelocal.ch/20150623/union-raps-swiss-executive-pay-rises>

German: [http://www.travailsuisse.ch/system ...](http://www.travailsuisse.ch/system-...)

Turkey

Dismissals lead to strike

June 25, 2015

Carmaker Tofaş, owned by the Turkish Koç Holding company and major Italian automaker Fiat, has dismissed a group of workers including workers who had a prominent role in a strike in May. During a tense period for the car industry factory workers from several major automakers including Renault and Ford went on extended strikes, dealing a severe blow to the industry's production and exports. As the workers made agreements with factory management, these often included a guarantee that no one would be fired; however, news outlets reported that some of those fired now include those who participated in last month's strike. This was the reason for Metal Workers Union (MİB) calling for a new general strike of all metal workers.

English: [http://en.cihan.com.tr/en/union-calls-for-resumption-of-strike ...](http://en.cihan.com.tr/en/union-calls-for-resumption-of-strike-...)

Strike ends with pay agreement for petrochemical workers

June 1, 2015

Five days after nearly 1,000 workers joined a strike over wages and working conditions at the İzmir facility of Turkey's petrochemical giant, Petkim, a pay deal was reached. The workers closed a collective agreement which guarantees everyone a 6% pay rise as well as a bonus wage on Ramadan and the sacrifice feasts.

English: [http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/strike-at-turkeys-largest-petrochemical ...](http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/strike-at-turkeys-largest-petrochemical-...)

United Kingdom

Northern Ireland households poorest

June 29, 2015

Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) suggest that Northern Ireland households have, on average, the lowest incomes of any UK region. The published data cover the effects of taxes and benefits on household incomes in 2014. The figures show the average household in NI paid £12,000 in taxes and received £13,000 in direct and indirect benefits. Average earnings are £25,540 giving a final household income of £26,500. The UK average final income is just under £32,000 and the highest average is in London at almost £39,000.

English: [http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons ...](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons)

Holiday pay ruling may have large impact

June 27, 2015

The Belfast based Court of Appeal ruled that voluntary overtime may have to be included in workers' holiday pay entitlements. This decision, in a legal challenge by an employee of the former Castlereagh Borough Council, could have a huge impact across the UK. The case was brought by an assistant plant manager at the council, over alleged unauthorised deductions from his wages. Earlier on a tribunal rejected his claim that earnings from voluntary overtime should be used to calculate paid annual leave. But his lawyers appealed on the basis that this would mean he would lose money when he took holidays.

English: [http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/holiday-pay-ruling ...](http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/holiday-pay-ruling)

Ferry workers act against privatisation

June 25, 2015

Trade unions representing Scottish ferry workers have initiated industrial action over a tendering bid which could see west coast routes taken over by a private firm. Their members are frightened about possible job losses, cuts to their pensions and employment conditions, and reductions in services if the planned new owner Serco takes over. Trade union RMT members at CalMac began three days of industrial action, with two days of work-to-rule followed by an all-out strike. Trade union TSSA will begin a 10-day ballot of staff for industrial action on 3 July.

English: [http://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/second-ferry-workers-union-joins ...](http://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/second-ferry-workers-union-joins)

Massive anti-austerity rally

June 23, 2015

Tens of thousands of people marched in London, Glasgow and elsewhere in the first major protest against the government's plans for five more years of austerity. Estimates of the size of the rally in central London varied between 70,000 and more than 150,000. Several thousand more gathered in Glasgow's George Square and smaller demonstrations were reported in other cities, including Liverpool and Bristol. Protesters denounced public sector cuts, the treatment of the disabled and the vulnerable through welfare cuts, and the NHS-privatisation.

English: [http://www.equaltimes.org/uk-250-000-march-to-end-austerity ...](http://www.equaltimes.org/uk-250-000-march-to-end-austerity)

[http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/20/tens-thousands-rally-uk-protest ...](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/20/tens-thousands-rally-uk-protest)

Newsquest journalists on strike for living wage

June 18, 2015

Journalists in South London, represented by the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) have embarked on a twelve day strike over low pay and bad working conditions at Newsquest. Despite talks having been organised for an extended period and even mediated by arbitration service ACAS, no headway has been made in negotiations. NUJ members voted in favour of strike action over pay, staffing and redundancies. The journalists are demanding a living wage, no compulsory redundancies and appropriate staffing levels.

English: <https://www.nuj.org.uk/news/twelve-day-london-newsquest-strike-begins/>

HSBC to cut 8,000 jobs in UK, 25,000 globally

June 9, 2015

Europe's biggest bank, HSBC has announced it will be cutting its workforce by 25,000, amounting to 10% of its current employees. In total, 8,000 jobs are to disappear in the UK, which HSBC ensures will be reached via natural attrition. Trade union officials announced they would be closely following the process.

English: [http://www.bbc.com/news/business ...](http://www.bbc.com/news/business...)

For more information, please contact the editor Jan Cremers, Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies (AIAS) cbn-aiaas@uva.nl or the Head of communications at the ETUI, Willy De Backer wdebacker@etui.org. For previous full issues of the *Collective bargaining newsletter* please visit www.etui.org/E-Newsletters/Collective-bargaining-newsletter. Since June 2013 readers can consult our archive and search through all articles in our database at www.cbnarchive.eu.

You may find further information on the ETUI at www.etui.org, and on the AIAS at www.uva-aiaas.net.

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