

collective bargaining

Issue 7-8/2020 | July-August

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.

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European sources

Support under SURE

August 24, 2020

The European Commission has presented proposals to the Council to grant financial support of €81.4 billion to 15 Member States under the SURE instrument (Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency). Once the Council approves these proposals, the financial support will be provided in the form of loans granted on favourable terms from the EU to Member States. These loans will assist Member States in addressing sudden increases in public expenditure to preserve employment.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

The risk of a new digital divide due to teleworking

August 14, 2020

The growth in teleworking seen during the Covid-19 crisis has been skewed towards highly paid occupations and white-collar employment, raising concerns about the emergence of a new divide between those who can work remotely and those who cannot. Nonetheless, enforced closures of economic activities due to confinement measures resulted in many new teleworkers amongst low and mid-level clerical and administrative workers who previously had limited access to this working arrangement.

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Agreement on joint guidelines for safety

July 17, 2020

Throughout Europe, production has resumed and workers have returned to their workplaces. The social partners in the chemical, pharmaceutical, rubber and plastics industries, industriAll European Trade Union and ECEG (European Chemical Employers Group) with their national affiliates acknowledge the efforts of social partners at company level to ensure that this return to work does not pose any risk to workers' health and safety.

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Revamp of Europass to get people working

July 16, 2020

Unemployment across Europe has risen due to the coronavirus pandemic. Young people and seasonal workers have been particularly hit during the lockdown. To help counter this, the European Union has revamped an initiative that helps job hunters find work anywhere in the EU by the so called Europass. Europass links up European job seekers and employers across the EU. The idea behind the new iteration is to simplify and update the Europass CV and other skills tools for the digital age.

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Austria

Trade union protest against overtime

August 18, 2020

Full-time employees in Austria work the second longest in the EU only topped by Greece, which is partly due to many hours of overtime. Of these hours of overtime roughly a fifth is unpaid, equalling an average of €10,000 per person. According to the ÖGB (Austrian Trade Union Federation), long and stressful work has adverse effects on the employees' physical wellbeing and intelligence. Therefore, the abundance of work should be distributed more equally.

Read on: [in German ...](#) Read on the data: [in English ...](#)

Austrian Airlines to pay back bonuses

August 19, 2020

The management board of Lufthansa's (LHAG.DE) unit Austrian Airlines will hand back their recent bonuses after Finance minister informed that payments were "unacceptable" for a company that is being bailed out. The government agreed in June to pay the airline €450 million in grants and loans as it reeled from a collapse in air travel because of the coronavirus pandemic.

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Belgium

Nearly 1.4 million people inactive

August 17, 2020

Belgium has significantly more so-called inactive people than job seekers, according to a comparison of the labour market of 20 OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries. Belgium has 1,371,667 inactive persons in the 25-64 age group. They are mainly people with health insurance, early pensioners or beneficiaries of social integration income.

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Employers not required to pay quarantined employees

August 4, 2020

Employers are not bound to paying the salary of employees who must quarantine after their return from an orange or a red colour-coded travel zone. According to a labour lawyer's analysis, an employer can rely on the national employment office, ONEM, to cover their quarantined employee's salary.

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Temporary unemployment scheme extended

July 19, 2020

The government has announced the extension to the end of the year of a measure facilitating temporary unemployment, amid expectations of a wave of requests in this regard from employers.

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Bulgaria

Unemployment rate falls

August 17, 2020

The government's Employment Agency reported that the unemployment rate edged down by 0.4 percentage points month-on-month to 7.9% in July. On an annual comparison basis, the registered unemployment rate rose by 2.6 percentage points in the month under review.

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Wage support schemes

July 15, 2020

The European Commission approved two Bulgarian wage-support programmes under its state aid temporary framework to support the economy during the Covid-19 pandemic. The first measure is the expanded and modified employment aid scheme, referred to usually as the "60:40" scheme, in which the government covers 60% of an employee's salary and mandatory social security and healthcare contributions, while employers cover the rest.

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Croatia

Demand for workers lower

August 20, 2020

The demand for workers in the first seven months is 39% lower than last year. This is shown by the labour market analysis of the online employment platform Adorio.hr. As a consequence of the coronavirus

pandemic and lockdown, the demand has practically stalled in March, and in mid-April; 81% fewer job vacancies were advertised.

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New government programme

July 23, 2020

Creating 100,000 jobs, increasing the average and minimum wages and further tax cuts are some of the goals of the programme of the new government. The government aims to spend HRK 10 billion (€ 1.33 billion) in creating conditions for opening 100,000 jobs and ensure an average monthly salary of HRK 7,600 (€ 1,000) and a minimum wage of at least HRK 4,250 (€ 564) by the end of its term.

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Cyprus

Public servants vote down early retirement scheme

August 28, 2020

Public servants are unwilling to retire early. Out of 4,088 eligible candidates of a proposed scheme only 450 are actually leaving the last day of the month. This is puzzling since those leaving early will be also spared a 12% deduction on pension benefits that normally applies for services rendered since January 2013.

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Unemployment increases slightly

August 13, 2020

The Statistical Service of the Republic of Cyprus reported that unemployment stood at 6.8% during the second quarter of 2020, compared to 6.5% in the corresponding quarter of 2019,. According to the results of the Labour Force Survey, the labour force in the 2nd quarter of 2020 amounted to 448,466 persons or 62.2% of the population – males 68.6% and females 56.3% – in comparison to 62.8%, in the corresponding quarter of 2019.

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Czechia

Only one in five cannot afford a one-week holiday

July 21, 2020

Fewer than one in five Czechs were unable to afford a one-week holiday in 2019, according to new data from Eurostat, a record low since this data was first collected in 2005. The record high was 44% in 2012. The equivalent Europe-wide figure is close to one in three.

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Slow wage growth

July 15, 2020

The average monthly salary reached € 1,293 in the first quarter of 2020. This was an increase of 5% year-on-year, the weakest growth since 2016. Real wages grew even less because of inflation. The consequences of the Coronavirus crisis make any significant growth unlikely in the near future.

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More unemployed economically inactive

July 14, 2020

In the first quarter of 2020, more than one in five unemployed persons became economically inactive, the highest rate ever. At the same time, the same number of unemployed persons became employed, and there was no increase in the number of people losing their jobs.

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Denmark

Tax levy for early retirement

August 18, 2020

The government announced that DKK 3 billion (€ 400 million) worth of additional taxes will be levied to fund early retirement for certain categories of workers. The government's plan includes a targeted corporate tax on banks and pension funds and higher levies for the most wealthy investors on their stock market returns. The right to early retirement will be granted to citizens who carry out particularly arduous lines of work.

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'Frozen' holiday money will be paid

August 13, 2020

People who are employed in Denmark can look forward to a windfall in October this year when so-called 'frozen holiday money' can be paid out. The payments were approved earlier this year as part of a larger government economic stimulus package in response to the coronavirus crisis.

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Estonia

Wage growth stalled

August 27, 2020

According to data from Statistics Estonia, , the average monthly gross wage and salary was € 1,433 in the second quarter of 2020, which is 1% higher than in 2019,. The year-on-year growth has not been as modest for ten years.

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Reforms to parental leave and benefit system

August 10, 2020

The latest phase of legislative changes to the Benefits Act came into effect in July 2020. Legislative changes to the Family Benefits Act were approved in 2017, but the changes have been introduced gradually. The primary goal of the changes is to promote a more even distribution of the burden of care between parents and introduce more flexibility into the system to help parents, especially mothers, with the improved work-life balance.

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Finland

Plan to raise early retirement age

August 14, 2020

The Finance Ministry intends to remove the unemployment pathway to early retirement to help improve the employment rate. The Ministry also proposed other measures to make it more difficult for people to leave the workforce before reaching pension age.

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More protection for immigrant workers

August 8, 2020

The government has pledged more protection to foreign labour as the current situation is described as “unfair to the foreign workers”. A working group is proposing that employers who exploit foreign workers will be fined. According to the working group, the exploitation of foreign labour is not a marginal phenomenon in Finland and indifference to the problem must be stopped.

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Impending teacher furloughs

August 4, 2020

Many municipalities inform that financial difficulties caused by the coronavirus crisis will force temporary layoffs of staff this autumn. According to the Trade Union of Education (OAJ), such furloughs would also affect teachers in 18 municipalities, as schools reopen next week.

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France

Retail workers strike

July 28, 2020

Thousands of workers at Castorama, a DIY and home improvement tool and supply retail chain, have been engaged in work stoppages to oppose the company’s refusal to pay thousands of euros in bonuses from the coronavirus pandemic. Workers at approximately two-thirds of the 100 stores in France took part in work stoppages or protests actions.

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Pay rise for health workers

July 13, 2020

The government has agreed to give pay rises worth € 8 billion to health workers, as it hailed their role in fighting the coronavirus. The deal was signed with trade unions after seven weeks of fraught negotiations. Health workers have been revered as heroes during the pandemic with regular displays of public appreciation. But they wanted more than recognition and have held protests to demand pay rises and better funding for hospitals.

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Airbus employees protest against job cuts

July 8, 2020

Thousands of Airbus employees went on a brief strike to protest against the mass involuntary layoffs looming at the company as a result of the current pandemic. Workers in France marched along a runway, and in Germany, protests took the shape of empty chairs and red balloons.

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Germany

Extension of furlough scheme until December 2021

August 28, 2020

The government has decided to extend its furlough scheme until December 2021, notwithstanding the reservations by a number of politicians at the potential bill of €30 million. The job support scheme assists workers whose income has been adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown.

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Trade union supports four-day week

August 25, 2020

IG Metall, with 2.3 million members in the metal working and electrical sectors, proposes negotiating for a four-day week to secure jobs against the economic consequences from the coronavirus crisis and structural shifts in the automobile industry.

Read on: [in English ...](#) Read on: [in English \(2\) ...](#)

Short-time work hits wages

August 11, 2020

The Federal Statistics Office reported that gross monthly earnings for full- and part-time workers fell by 2.2% on average in the second quarter from a year ago, due mainly to the wide use of short-time work during the coronavirus crisis. The hardest-hit sectors were hotels and hospitality, the automotive sector and tour operators.

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Settlement between trade unionist and Hyundai

July 3, 2020

A trade union member defended his rights as a worker, trade unionist, and member of the works council at the Hyundai research and development centre, at the regional labour court. The conflict started in 2003 but now ended in a settlement between the two parties. The work contract will not expire before December 31, 2021 and the employee will receive a severance payment. Although the trade union is happy for the individual worker, they fear that the disdain shown by Hyundai for the independent trade union will continue as well as its support for a yellow union.

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Greece

Liberalisation of wages for seafarers

July 30, 2020

The government announced an amendment that would liberalise the labour and remuneration framework for lower crew serving on board of Greek-flagged merchant ships, a long-standing demand by the country's Union of Greek Shipowners (UGS). At present, the current wage scales and other collective bargaining provisions for lower-ranked crew-members, as prescribed in domestic labour law for Greek-flagged vessels, would give way to the lower pay scales which are internationally recognised and applied in collective bargaining agreements.

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Unemployment rises to one million

August 21, 2020

Despite opening up tourism in July, Greece saw its unemployment rate soar by an additional 125,000 people to more than 1 million compared to the same month in 2019, the country's Manpower Employment Organization (OAED) informed. Overall, the total number of unemployed seeking a job in July came to 1,040,852 people, 537,029 of whom (51.6%) listed on OAED records for a period of at least 12 months.

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Hungary

Jobless rate rises

August 29, 2020

The three-month rolling average jobless rate was 4.8% in July, up 0.2 percentage point from the previous month and 1.4 percentage points from twelve months earlier, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) informed. In absolute terms, there were 224,300 unemployed, 10,100 more than in the previous month and up 66,400 from a year earlier.

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Gross wages rise

July 31, 2020

The Central Statistical Office (KSH) found that gross wages were € 1,160 in May, 9.4% higher than a year earlier,. In January-May, real wages rose by 5.1%, taking account of an annual CPI of 3.5%.

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Iceland

Raise of unemployment benefits rejected

August 20, 2020

The government announced not to raise the unemployment benefits. However it would be possible to extend the time period of income-related unemployment benefits; i.e., unemployment payments based on how much one earned at their previous job. This comes after The Icelandic Confederation of University Graduates (BHM) called on the government to raise the maximum income-related unemployment benefits.

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Unemployed may go back to school

August 19, 2020

People on unemployment will be permitted to enter academic programmes without losing their benefits. This is among the changes to current law being developed by a working group appointed by the Minister for Social Affairs. The changes are intended to benefit the long-term unemployed, among others.

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Ireland

Launch of new employment wage subsidy scheme

August 30, 2020

The government is encouraging employers to register for the new Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme. The scheme replaces the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme from 1 September 2020. Since March over €2.7

billion of support has been given to over 69,500 employers through the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS) covering over 600,000 workers.

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Industrial action at Dublin pharma

August, 17 2020

SIPTU (Services Industrial Professional and Technical Union) members in pharmaceutical manufacturer Leo Pharma in Dublin have commenced industrial action in a dispute over redundancies. The row centres on the company's decision to make five workers redundant. SIPTU accused the company of breaching a collective agreement which ensured that members would be made permanent after two years of service.

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Italy

Teachers demand same pay

August 17, 2020

Schoolteachers in Italy earn less than in many other EU countries. A new petition hopes to raise public awareness before key negotiations about pay rises for state functionaries with the government in September 2017. The call to action on online activism site "change.org" argues that Italian primary and secondary school teachers are employed under "precarious" temporary contracts and have worse working conditions than their EU equivalents.

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Support employment

August 10, 2020

The government has asked the European Union to tap its SURE unemployment scheme for €28.5 billion after extending furlough support to help the economy withstand the hit from the COVID-19 crisis. On 7 August the government approved a new stimulus package worth €25 billion, setting aside roughly half of that sum to support employment. The government extended temporary layoff schemes for up to 18 weeks, setting conditions and requiring firms not to cut jobs to qualify for state aid.

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Latvia

Wage increase university teachers

August 18, 2020

The government decided to increase the lowest wages for academic personnel from 1 September 2020. According to amendments developed by the Education and Science Ministry (IZM), based on the schedule for wage increases, the lowest monthly wage rate for lecturers as of 1 September 2020 is € 805, which is the landmark for other wage rates, is set equal or close to minimal teacher's rate. At the same time, it is planned to increase wage rates for other university and college workers.

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Government supports wage compensation

August 5, 2020

Rules for provision of state support will be available to companies whose employees' paid average monthly wage in 2019 is not lower than € 800 and companies whose tax debts do not exceed € 1,000 on the day of submission of the application. The support ('single-time grant to compensate wages') will be provided to

businesses equal to 25% of state social insurance contributions paid in 2019. This amount is not allowed to exceed € 800,000.

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Liechtenstein

Wage difference analysis of Postal company

July 2, 2020

On request of the trade union the Postal company performed a wage analysis. The results of this analysis were presented at Equal Pay Day. The analysis showed that the wage difference between men and women stands at 2.4% which is quite an improvement. In 2017 the difference was still 6.6% at the Postal company. Equal and fair pay is not only an important asset for employees, but the company also benefits because they make them more loyal to the employer.

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Lithuania

Shortage of teachers

August 25, 2020

In Lithuanian schools, there are around 700 vacancies for teachers, although the proportion of teachers looking for work has increased by 40% in 2020. According to a specialist at the Lithuanian Employment Services the lack of teachers in Lithuania is due to part-time contracts and the need to commute between different schools.

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Luxembourg

Job cuts may hit two glass plants

August 13, 2020

About 200 jobs could be cut in reductions planned for the Bascharage and Dudelange plants operated by glass producer Guardian. The US-based glass maker wants to negotiate over a social plan for the redundant employees. At the two locations there are currently 453 people employed who produce glass that can be used in construction, interiors, and automobile windshields

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Reduction of staff and wages at Getronics

August 13, 2020

According to the Services and Energy Union of the national trade union federation OGBL, 10 employees of NV Getronics will be asked to resign. They will then be offered a financial package that is about half of what they would be entitled to in case of dismissals. Furthermore, remaining employees will have to accept a reduction in their salary of 5 to 15%.

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Malta

Conflict over health workers' wages

August 24, 2020

Allied health professionals whose industrial action was called off said they had been frustrated by delays in talks for a renewed collective agreement, that were stalled twice by the 2019 political crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. Talks for the updating of their 2013 collective agreement had been ongoing since 2017, but months of negotiations had led nowhere.

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Equal treatment regarding access to employment

July 13, 2020

Long-term residents may soon be able to work in the country without obtaining an 'employment license' if Maltese authorities decide to take seriously a warning of the EU Commission to remove the requirement. In its regular package of infringement decisions, the European Commission has decided to start an infringement procedure against Malta, as the latter has failed to fulfil its obligations under the Long-Term Residence Directive.

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Netherlands

Extension of salary support scheme

August 28, 2020

The current NOW salary support scheme runs at 90% of the wage bill for companies with a drop in turnover of at least 20%. From October, the support will be reduced in stages to 80%, 70% and 60% every three months, while from January, the scheme will only apply to companies with a turnover reduction of at least 30%. The cost of this measure is put at some €5.4 billion. Companies in receipt of NOW support will not be fined if they sack staff and will be able to reduce salaries if unions agree, but the ban on dividend and bonus payments will remain.

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Schiphol Airport cuts jobs

August 28, 2020

Royal Schiphol Group announced to cut several hundred jobs out of a workforce of 3,000. This is the result of a 62% drop in passenger traffic from the same period in 2019. The loss of €` 246 million, and the uncertainty about the near future make a 25% cut in costs necessary, including the job cuts, by 2022.

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Healthcare workers are denied higher wages

August 19, 2020

The government will not give healthcare workers a structural wage increase, because of a lack of money and the economic uncertainty of the moment. The Health Care Minister argues that wages recently grew with the market and agreements for further increases had already been made. The already promised € 1,000 bonus will be paid later as a token of the appreciation for their hard work during the Coronavirus crisis.

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Norway

New wage deal

August 24, 2020

Norwegian workers reached a deal with employers over wages at shipyards and a wide range of other manufacturing industries, averting the outbreak of a major labour dispute, the largest private sector union informed. Some 28,000 workers had been scheduled to go on strike if no agreement was found, and a conflict could also have spread to other industries.

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Labour talks stalled

August 4, 2020

Norway's most important annual labour negotiations had to be postponed last spring when the Corona crisis hit and the country shut down. When they finally resumed this week, the talks that set the tone for wage earners all over the country broke down after just an hour.

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Poland

Employment drop and wage increase

August 19, 2020

According to data published by the Central Statistical Office (GUS), employment dropped by 2.3% in July 2020 in year-on-year terms. Average wages in the private sector had increased by 3.8% from June. The average gross monthly wage in July was € 1,229, according to GUS.

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Plan for minimum wage increase

July 29, 2020

The government plans to increase the country's monthly minimum wage to € 635 as of January 2021. Meanwhile, the minimum hourly rate would go up to € 4.15 at the same date. The proposal is still subject to consultation with the government's social partners as part of the Council for Social Dialogue.

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Teleperformance workers form a new union

July 6, 2020

After more than a year of organizing, Teleperformance workers have formed a trade union, named Stronger Together in Teleperformance, part of the 'Solidarność' federation. Workers at the Paris-based call centre giant cited promoting equality, a better work environment, and opportunities for career growth as central reasons for organizing.

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Portugal

Health workers on strike

August 27, 2020

Workers from private health services group SUCH were on strike to demand wage increases, reduced working hours and payment of risk allowance, among other demands. According to the Federation of agriculture, food, drinks, hotel and tourism unions (FESAHT), of the CGTP, which called the two-day strike, the SUCH administration refuses to negotiate wage increases and other union proposals, with the overwhelming majority of workers receiving the minimum wage.

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Support under SURE

August 25, 2020

The European Commission has presented a proposal to the Council for a decision to grant € 5.9 billion in financial support to Portugal under the SURE instrument (Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency). The loans will assist Portugal in addressing sudden increases in public expenditure to preserve employment. Specifically, they will help to cover the costs related to its short-time work scheme.

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Romania

Can the success story of short-time work be repeated?

August 24, 2020

The government published an Emergency Ordinance on the establishment of support measures for employees and employers in the context of the epidemiological situation caused by the spread the coronavirus, as well as to stimulate employment growth. It mainly describes a Romanian version of the German Kurzarbeit model, a solution proposed in the context of the economic difficulties that companies are going through. The provisions are addressed to employers whose activity has been temporarily reduced as a result of the coronavirus, being offered the possibility to unilaterally reduce the working time of employees by no more than 50% of the duration provided in the individual contract.

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Building trade union power

July 22, 2020

The ICA trade union gained recognition at the Daimler subsidiary Star Transmission in Romania after a tough battle and is now fighting for a collective agreement. One year ago, 650 of the nearly 1,200 employees of the plant that produces engine components, had come together to join a union. When they demanded a collective agreement, they were threatened instead with a transfer of production to Russia. The workers did not give up, however. They stuck together, fought together and finally won together.

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Serbia

Trade union protests over dismissal journalists

August 25, 2020

The representatives of the Union of Media, Culture and Arts 'Independence' protested against the announced dismissal of workers from the Vojvodina's public broadcaster, Radio and Television of Vojvodina (RTV). The Union informed reporters that 200 RTV employees would lose their job by the end of August, in addition to 56 who had already left in July.

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Support of 60% of two monthly wages

July 24, 2020

The government plans to pay 60% of two monthly salaries to employees of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to support the economic recovery after the coronavirus crisis. The first payment was foreseen by August 10, while the second will be done in September.

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Slovakia

Wage statistics

August 24, 2020

Only in the Bratislava region people receive on average more than € 1,000 net a month. Employees in all other regions receive a net salary below € 1,000. Top management and IT workers belong to the best paid workers. On the other side of the spectrum, ancillary staff in kitchens, school caretakers, maids, seamstresses, doorkeepers, and caretakers earn less than € 500.

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Employment protection fund

August 19, 2020

The Labour Ministry will launch an employment protection fund, similar to the Kurzarbeit schemes in Germany and Austria. Implementation of the scheme is scheduled for January 2022 to ensure there is enough time to prepare this new labour market instrument. The new fund must protect employers and employees from unforeseeable temporary external factors. The fund will make short time working easier in the future by granting workers 80% of their net salary, with 60% of their original net salary to be covered by the fund and 20% coming from the employer.

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Slovenia

Smallest difference between minimum and average wages

August 24, 2020

The gap between the minimum and average wages stood at 50.6% in 2019, which made the country the EU member state with the narrowest gap, data from Slovenia's Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development (IMAD) shows.

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Unemployment rate down slightly

August 22, 2020

The registered unemployment rate was down 0.1 percentage point in June over May to 9.2%, according to the Employment Service. In February, before the start of the coronavirus pandemic, the rate was 7.9.

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Spain

Nightlife industry on strike

August 7, 2020

For the first time in Spain's history, the nightlife industry has decided to go on strike. The nightlife venues in Madrid closed temporarily voluntarily their doors. These venues are protesting against the measures decreed by the Community of Madrid, which state that hospitality businesses must close at 1:30 a.m.

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Investment Plan's Advisory Hub

July 30, 2020

The European Investment Advisory Hub, funded by the European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB), will advise the Municipality of Madrid on a project aiming to improve assistance for vulnerable people residing in temporary accommodation. EIB experts will provide the Municipality of Madrid with a feasibility study on the launch of a social impact bond, an innovative financing solution aimed at enabling vulnerable groups to become independent.

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Unemployment rate up to 15%

July 28, 2020

Joblessness in Spain has hit its highest level since 2018 as experts warn that the country's labour market will take a long time to recover from the pandemic's impact. The unemployment rate rose to 15.3% in the second quarter of 2020, according to data released by the National Statistics Institute.

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Sweden

Employment and unemployment figures

August 11, 2020

Almost 6,000 more people found a new job in July compared to the same month last year, despite the coronavirus crunch throwing record numbers of workers into unemployment. However, 478,081 people were registered as unemployed with Sweden's employment agency Arbetsförmedlingen, which is around 134,000 more than the same month last year.

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Unemployment back to financial crisis level

July 23, 2020

Unemployment rose in June, with over half a million people in total without work. In total, 557,000 people or 9.8% of the labour force, were jobless in June 2020, up 2.6 percentage points from the previous month. Unemployment is now higher than the peak during the financial crisis of 2009, when unemployment reached 9.3%.

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Switzerland

Job cuts at Credit Suisse

August 25, 2020

Credit Suisse seeks to generate huge annual savings through expanded digitization and diminished face-to-face contact between the bank and its customers. The policy of closing local branches may result in the cutting of 500 jobs. The trade union of bank employees urges the bank to avoid dismissals at least until the

end of 2020 and criticised it for announcing restructuring during great economic uncertainty and despite solid financial results.

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Education unions join forces

July 12, 2020

Two affiliates of Education International have urged decision-makers to approve the financial and human resources required to implement vital measures in schools, such as the introduction of health protection officers. The unions challenge politicians to implement the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. One important feature will be the focus on students affected by learning gaps during the lockdown.

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Turkey

Turkish Airlines announces pay cuts

July 29, 2020

Turkish Airlines announced that it will implement pay cuts to protect employment and reduce its cash outflow in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. The news comes after the airline announced that the trade union did not respond to the airline's offer and its expectations and calls for reconciliation remained unanswered. As of August 1, wages specified in the collective agreement covering the 2016-2018 period will be paid, meaning wages will not be paid under the contract covering the 2019-2021 period.

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Decreasing number of short-term allowance

July 12, 2020

The number of workers receiving short-term working allowance decreased significantly in June, when weekend lockdowns and other restrictions to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic were lifted. Employees benefiting from the short-term working scheme decreased to 2.3 million in June from 3.2 million in May, figures from the Unemployment Insurance Fund showed.

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United Kingdom

IKEA workers threaten to strike

August 28, 2020

Staff at IKEA Glasgow are set to strike after the firm sacked a trade union representative who fought cuts to workers' sick pay. Changes to working conditions at IKEA in the UK will see many workers relying on statutory sick pay of only £ 95 (€ 107) a week if they have coronavirus or have to self-isolate. Workers at its Braehead superstore claim sick employees will feel pressured into coming to work, putting colleagues and customers at risk.

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Worst fall in retail employment since financial crisis

August 25, 2020

Economists are worried about the economic prospects going into the winter, and hopes of a swift recovery will not have been helped by grim readings from retail employers. Retailers cut jobs during the year to

August at the fastest rate since 2009, with an even sharper decline anticipated for the figures to September, according to a survey of the industry.

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Pay rise for 900,000 public sector workers

July 21, 2020

Public sector workers, including doctors, teachers and police officers, will see above inflation pay rises this year, the government has announced. Nearly 900,000 workers will benefit across the country, with teachers and doctors seeing the largest rise at 3.1% and 2.8%, respectively, recognising their efforts on the frontline during the battle against COVID-19. Police and prison officers will both have a 2.5% rise in pay.

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