

collective bargaining

Issue 11/2020 November

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

European steel action plan

November 19, 2020

The pandemic has worsened the situation of the steel industry, that has long suffered from a lack of a global level playing field. Half of Europe's steel capacity and thousands of jobs are at risk. European steelworkers and their unions, coordinated by industriAll Europe, have developed a blueprint for a new European steel action plan and are addressing clear demands to national governments, the EU and steel companies to support the European steel industry.

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Rise in youth unemployment

November 19, 2020

Experts warn that the rise in youth unemployment in Europe due to COVID-19 could cause long-term damage to an entire generation. Over 3 million under-25s have lost their livelihoods this year, while the unemployment rate for over-55s has actually dropped slightly. Evidence shows that those without work in their early adulthood can expect to earn less during their lifetimes.

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Social partners call on member states

November 18, 2020

European social partners urge member states to endorse the agreement found on the European recovery fund and Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027. The agreement found as a result of the trilogue on the recovery fund and MFF is essential to help the EU economy recover from the damage of the COVID-19 crisis.

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European Semester Autumn Package

November 18, 2020

The European Commission presented its autumn economic policy package. Part of this is the proposal for a Joint Employment Report which analyses the impact of the pandemic on the employment and social situation in Europe. The COVID-19 crisis has broken a six-year long positive trend on the labour market. The total number of people in employment and the employment rate have dropped significantly, though the increase in the unemployment rate has been moderate so far thanks to the swift adoption of short-time work schemes and similar measures.

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Austria

Lockdown and employment support

November 17, 2020

The economy grew by 11.1% quarter-on-quarter in the third quarter, which is still 5.3% below last year's level. The government has decided to support the labour market and businesses by granting affected businesses compensation up to 80% of the revenue in the same month of last year. The payment of this compensation is bound to the condition that no employee is made redundant. Additionally, the short-time work scheme has been adjusted and extended until the end of March 2021.

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Pilot on job guarantee

November 1, 2020

Unemployed will be guaranteed paid jobs as part of a new trial policy that could transform how countries deal with unemployment. The pilot study on long-term unemployment in the town of Marienthal has been designed by Oxford University economists at the behest of the Lower Austria's department of work. All long-term unemployed people in the town, an estimated 150 individuals, will be given work in fields such as childcare, gardening or home renovations, and paid a full wage.

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Belgium

Police unions call to protest

November 16, 2020

Police unions are calling on officers to stop handing out fines to protest against a perceived lack of support from authorities throughout the pandemic and following clashes in Brussels. Several unions are urging their members to join in the "fining strike" and no longer hand out fines to offenders of coronavirus measures to demand a response from authorities after police officers clashed with passers-by during an identity check in Ixelles (Brussels).

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Employers violate coronavirus measures

November 10, 2020

One or more violations of the coronavirus measures have been detected in almost half of employers inspected since the first lockdown in Belgium, according to figures by Federal Economy. Since 13 March, some 1,000 inspectors from the Federal Public Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue Service (FPS) have carried out a total of 17,633 checks to see whether companies are complying with the measures and hygiene regulations in force, and found 8,170 employers (about 46%) with at least one violation.

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Support package for hospital staff

November 6, 2020

The Government is allocating an additional €200 million to hospital staff and implementing and expanding a broad support package of measures to help the sector through the second coronavirus lockdown. To keep the economy afloat during and after the second wave of coronavirus infections, the Consultative Committee

introduced a broad package of new support measures for workers, employers, the self-employed and so-called vulnerable groups.

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Bulgaria

Demands for pay rise

November 17, 2020

The Trade Union Federation of Employees at the Interior Ministry continues its protests against misappreciation of police work and its contribution to combatting the epidemic and the impact of COVID-19. Each day, during the lunch break, the union members stage a rally in front of their workplaces. If these measures don't yield results the trade union federation will organize a nationwide protest.

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Wage rise for doctors and nurses

November 3, 2020

The Government announced a pay rise for medical staff. In 2021, doctors will receive an additional €300 per month, nurses €180 and auxiliary medical staff €60. The measure includes 50,000 people and will cost more than €121 million. The salaries of the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs will increase by 15%, with the allocation of another €118 million.

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Croatia

New foreign nationals act

November 25, 2020

The Parliament passed the new Foreign Nationals Act under which there will no longer be an annual quota for the employment of foreign nationals. Under the new law, the government will no longer establish an annual quota for the employment of foreign nationals, but employers will be obliged to submit a request to the Croatian Employment Service (HZZ) to conduct a labour market test.

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Agreement to support SMEs and youth unemployment

November 20, 2020

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development (HBOR) have signed a new loan agreement to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The initiative addresses the issue of youth unemployment as one of the biggest social and economic challenges faced by Croatia.

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Plans to legalise 'digital nomads' works

November 11, 2020

The Government took the first step to introducing a digital nomad visa. The first concrete regulatory steps have been taken to legalize the residence and work of digital nomads in Croatia. On November 5, the final proposal of the Law on Foreigners was adopted, which will be sent to the Parliament.

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Cyprus

Trade unions reject talk on staggered 13th salaries

November 16, 2020

Trade unions have moved to quash talk of a possible delay or suspension of payment of the 13th salary this December, despite the financial strain on employers due to declining turnover and revenues brought about by the coronavirus restrictions. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry stated that, although by law the 13th salary is an integral part of employees' wages, due to the current extenuating circumstances employers and unions should consider alternative arrangements.

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Construction workers strike

November 11, 2020

Construction workers at the 'City of Dreams' casino in Limassol went on strike to protest against the late payment of their salaries by J&P Avax, one of the biggest construction firms operating in Cyprus. According to trade union Sek, which represents the workers who went on strike, J&P Avax has for several months been late in paying wages.

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Czechia

Trade unions propose temporary state holiday

November 8, 2020

Trade unions propose to the government to make November 16 an official state holiday in 2020. The temporary move could help curb the spread of COVID-19 cases in the country, which is currently near a peak as the capacity at hospitals reaches a critical status.

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Denmark

Employment increases amongst non-Western nationalities

November 26, 2020

A significant number of Syrian, Turkish and Iraqi nationals have entered the Danish jobs market in recent years, according to Statistics Denmark. For Syrians between the age of 25 and 64, the employment rate increased from 12.2% in 2015 to 43.2% in 2019. For Turkish people of the same age range, employment increased from 53% in 2010 to 57.8% in 2019. For Iraqi nationals, employment levels are lower but also increased in the 2010-2019 period, from 34.5% to 44.8%.

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Employers allowed to force staff to take COVID-19 test

November 23, 2020

Employers can force by law their staff to take a test for coronavirus and disclose the result. The law is a result of an emergency vote passed by a parliamentary majority. The aim of the law is to reduce the spread of

COVID-19 and prevent businesses from having to suspend operations if an outbreak occurs, the Ministry of Employment said in a statement.

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Estonia

Wages grow despite pandemic

November 27, 2020

Wages have grown through summer, though at a slower rate than prior to the coronavirus crisis, according to the Bank of Estonia. Data from Statistics Estonia reveal that the average gross wage has grown by 3.2% on year to the third quarter of 2020, despite the pandemic, now standing at an average of €1,441.

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Unemployment rises

November 13, 2020

In the third quarter of 2020, there were 54,300 unemployed persons, which is 4,900 more than in the second quarter of the year according to Statistics Estonia. The labour force participation rate was 71.8%, the employment rate was 66.3 %, and the unemployment rate was 7.7%.

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Finland

Traficom could make 13% of staff redundant

November 27, 2020

The Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom) has announced it will initiate consultative negotiations with almost its entire staff over the redundancies of up to 120 employees. The topics of discussion will also include other cost-cutting measures, such as rationalising the operations of the agency that employs roughly 900 people in 15 localities across Finland.

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Unemployment forecast

November 17, 2020

According to the latest labour market forecast from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, the coronavirus pandemic will continue to affect jobs in 2022. The figures suggested the labour market had not suffered too badly during the pandemic overall. Officials said this was likely due to factors such as moderate restrictions to curb the spread of the virus and companies using temporary rather than permanent layoffs to weather the crisis.

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France

Energy unions strike over job fears

November 26, 2020

Workers at energy companies including EDF carried out stoppages after several trade unions called for protests against looming restructurings that could affect jobs. The CGT union, alongside CFE-CGC, FCE-CFDT and Forces Ouvrières (FO), had urged staff at EDF to strike for at least an hour, even those working remotely. According to CGT, about 40% of EDF staff had taken part in the industrial action halfway through the day.

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Insurance sector signs agreement with unions

November 18, 2020

The insurance sector, that employs some 150,000, intends to address the transformation environment that is altering its business and its occupational professions by strengthening anticipatory management of jobs, skills, and lifelong occupational training. The French Insurance Federation (FFA) together with four trade unions, CFDT, CFE-CGC, UNSA and CFTC, signed a new agreement on these topics on 15 September, which was made public on 17 November.

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Teachers strike

November 10, 2020

The teachers' unions held a nationwide day of protests and strikes to call for stricter safety and hygiene measures in schools as coronavirus infections continue to soar across the country. The protests closed a number of schools in Paris, with roughly one in 10 teachers taking part.

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Unemployment surges

November 10, 2020

According to the statistics office INSEE, unemployment rose to its highest level in two years in the third quarter, as the economy grapples with the fallout from the COVID-19 crisis. According to INSEE, the jobless rate jumped to 9.0% from 7.1% in the second quarter, its highest level since the third quarter of 2018.

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Germany

Amazon workers on strike again

November 27, 2020

Amazon workers have decided to strike at two locations in the days leading up to Black Friday, to protest against the company's refusal to sign a collective agreement. According to the Verdi trade union, employees of the international company have stopped working at the Rheinberg and Werne sites in North Rhine-Westphalia. Verdi announced that it was Amazon's refusal to sign a collective agreement on 'good and healthy work' that led to the strike. Verdi has also called for workers at seven other Amazon shipping centres to join the strike, which was deliberately planned to coincide with Black Friday.

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Improving working conditions in meat industry

November 27, 2020

The Government is putting an end to subcontracting in the meat industry from January 1, 2021, according to the Labour Minister. A draft law bans subcontracting in slaughterhouses and meat processing plants but does allow for some temporary work in meat processing.

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IG Metall calls for wage increase in metal and electrical industry

November 26, 2020

Trade union IG Metall adopted its demands for the next bargaining round starting mid-December and covering more than 3.8 million employees in the metal and electrical industry. The demands include a volume of 4%, which can be used to strengthen wages and training allowances and to finance measures to safeguard jobs. The duration should be twelve months. Further topics are the improvement of the quality of training and the permanent hiring of apprentices and of workers in the dual training system.

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Best states for labour migrants

November 3, 2020

New data on the success of *Länder* (federal states), collected by the Council of Migration, a group of around 150 migration researchers from different disciplines, has revealed where the best places for migrants to find employment in Germany are. The integration of migrants into the labour market is most successful in the south. This puts these *Länder* well above the average migrant employment rate, which currently stands at 49.8 %.

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Greece

Public sector and health workers strike

November 26, 2020

ADEDY, the public service union, carried out a nationwide strike, demanding, among other things, substantial measures to protect the health of workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, mass recruitments in the field of health and public transport. It also points to the government's proposals for the abolition of the unpaid overtime after 8 hours, additional restrictions on strikes, weakening of the rights for labour disputes, reductions of workers' benefits through the unemployment office. Also health workers were taking part in the nationwide 24-hour strike.

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Reduction of income tax

November 12, 2020

The Government has introduced new tax incentives in an effort to attract those working from home as it looks to rebuild its battered economy. Anyone moving to Greece in 2021 will not have to pay income tax on half of their salary for the next seven years, whether salaried or self-employed. The new legislation is expected to be voted and come into force on January 1.

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Hungary

Wage growth slows to 8.8%

November 30, 2020

Wage growth slowed to an annual 8.8% on average in September from 9.1% in August, according to data released by the Central Statistics Office (KSH). In absolute terms, the average gross monthly wage for full-time employees stood at €1,080. The average net wage was €727.

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Employment shrinks

November 27, 2020

According to data released by the Central Statistics Office, the official unemployment rate in the August–October period stood at 4.3%. This is 0.1 percentage points lower than the previous figure, and 0.6 percentage points better than the highest figure this year. On average, the number of unemployed people was 200,000 in the aforementioned three-month period. According to the administrative data of the National Employment Service, the total number of registered jobseekers was around 325,000 in the August–October period on average.

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Iceland

Agreement to stop strike

November 27, 2020

The Government has presented a bill proposing legislation to stop the Coast Guard's air mechanics' strike. The main sticking point in the negotiations is the Coast Guard's air mechanics' will to preserve the link to the Union of Aircraft Maintenance Technicians' wage agreements. While the government has offered a one-year extension of the current agreement, giving them the same pay raises as Icelandair's air mechanics, the Coast Guard's air mechanics turned down the offer, demanding instead a three-year contract.

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Unemployment higher than after bank collapse in 2009

November 17, 2020

The Directorate of Labour estimates that unemployment will be at 11.3% in December, compared to 9.3% when the bank collapse peaked in 2009. This was stated in a new monthly report from the Directorate of Labour and is a result of the job losses that have taken place due to the current pandemic.

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Ireland

Public health doctors back on strike over pay and contracts

November 27, 2020

Public health specialists, who have a key role in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, have overwhelmingly voted for industrial action, up to and including strikes, in a dispute over pay and contracts. The doctors, who are represented by the Irish Medical Organisation (IMO), voted by 94% in favour of industrial action.

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Government urged to establish new social dialogue structure

November 18, 2020

According to head of Social Justice Ireland, the country would greatly benefit from the establishment of a new social dialogue structure that would engage all sectors at a national level. Addressing the organisation's annual social policy conference, he said that in the post-COVID world, the Government should have confidence, that the general public would welcome new thinking in how our economy and society was structured.

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Italy

Healthcare workers shortage

November 24, 2020

According to the unions representing healthcare workers, the COVID-19 emergency has left the country with a shortage of as many as 73,000 health workers. According to law, the only non-Italians that can be hired in public roles are European citizens who have a long-term residency permit. Those working and living in Italy with temporary permits, no matter how long their total time of residence in the country, would not be able to apply.

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Collective agreement in telecommunications

November 20, 2020

Social partners representing the telecommunications sector signed the renewal of their national collective agreement, which applies to some 130,000 workers. The new agreement takes account of the major changes in the sector, which has been impacted significantly by digitalisation, and is binding until 31 December 2022. It includes an average pay rise of €100 and sets up a bilateral solidarity fund to manage active and passive employment policies in the sector.

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National strike by public sector workers

November 18, 2020

The transport, education and health sectors face disruption due to a national general strike called by the USI trade union representing public workers. There are a variety of reasons for the national strike, including greater rights, safety in the workplace and the fight against the privatisation of public services.

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Latvia

Support for wider range of companies and employees

November 25, 2020

The government informed that two support mechanisms will help a wider range of companies and also employees. The Ministry of Economics informed that new conditions were approved as: aid for wage subsidies for partly employed workers, the provision of downtime aid to entrepreneurs and their employees, as well as to self-employed and patent workers.

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Minimum wage increase

November 24, 2020

As from 1st January 2021, the national minimum monthly salary will be raised from €430 to €500. Currently, approximately 20% of employees receive the minimum wage or less, and the majority works in the private sector. The minimum wage was unchanged for the last three years.

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Liechtenstein

Employment found after training

November 28, 2020

Despite the difficult labour market situation 330 young adults who completed their vocational training in 2020 found a suitable follow-up working relation in most cases.

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Lithuania

Average gross wages rise

November 30, 2020

According to Statistics Lithuania, the average gross monthly wages rose by 10.4% in the third quarter of 2020 from a year ago to €1,454.8. Average net monthly wages increased by 11.2% year-on-year to €927.9. The annual growth was driven by increases in the minimum monthly wage and the basic amount used for calculating public-sector salaries, and other factors.

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Proposal to lower minimum wage for youth

November 4, 2020

A proposal to lower the minimum wage for young employees has been received with scepticism from students and the government. The Tripartite Council, a forum of government, employer, and trade union representatives, received a proposal to allow paying lower minimum wage to the youth.

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Luxembourg

Data on partial unemployment

November 27, 2020

During the month of November, 4,172 businesses filed an application to initiate partial unemployment procedures in December, an increase of 1,379 applications compared to the month prior. In November 2019 with no ongoing pandemic, only 25 such demands were filed.

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Nationals minority in employment

November 26, 2020

A study published by Statec analyses the composition of salaried employment in the different sectors in terms of education levels, as well as the share of foreign workers in the country. Luxembourg nationals

represent only 26.7% of domestic salaried employment, whereas cross-border workers make up 45.5% and foreign residents (non-nationals) 27.8%, the study concludes.

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Malta

Wages remain strong despite Covid-19

November 27, 2020

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, wages in Malta remain strong. According to the National Statistics Office, the pandemic has had a negative impact in sectors such as tourism and retail due to the restrictions. The diversity in the Maltese economy has helped mitigate this impact.

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Collective agreement for soldiers

November 17, 2020

Soldiers across all divisions will receive higher allowances as part of a sectoral agreement reached between the Government and the General Workers' Union. From the agreement 1,750 soldiers will benefit. Soldiers will also receive compensation for any work done above the 40-hour week. Additionally, all soldiers ranked Major or lower will benefit from a higher pay grade.

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Netherlands

Uber barred from dismissing staff

November 23, 2020

Uber has been refused permission to dismiss workers at its international headquarters in Amsterdam. The Public Employment Service (UWV) which has to assess all formal redundancy applications, has ruled that there were no valid grounds for dismissal because the company could not demonstrate that the downturn in the workload was structural. The decision is being seen as a vindication for some ten Uber workers who refused to leave when the company pressured almost 200 staff in Amsterdam into leaving before the redundancies had been approved by the UVW.

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Discrimination of pregnant working women

November 23, 2020

A report published by the Institute for Human Rights has revealed that due to pregnancy or the birth of a child, 43% of women in the Netherlands have experienced discrimination, putting them at a disadvantage in their careers. As part of the research, 1,150 working women who had had a child in the past four years were asked about their experiences with discrimination when at work or looking for a job. The results of the 2020 investigation are the same as in 2012 and 2016, showing that little has changed for (pregnant) women over the past eight years.

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Unemployment slightly down

November 19, 2020

In October 2020, there were 406,000 unemployed, equivalent to 4.3% of the labour force. In the period August to October, unemployment declined by an average of 4,000 per month. Such a decrease, measured over three months, has not occurred since March this year. According to Statistics Netherlands (CBS), the number of employed people grew by 14,000 per month over the past three months. At the end of October, the Employee Insurance Agency (UWV) recorded 278,000 current unemployment (WW) benefits.

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Norway

Strike by security guards

November 26, 2020

Some 2,300 security guards organised by the Norwegian Union of General Workers (NAF) were on strike nationwide over pay. The Government, which can invoke emergency powers to end workplace conflicts, said it will closely monitor the situation.

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Union threatens with strike

November 26, 2020

According to Safe trade union, some 262 oil service workers at Schlumberger's Norwegian unit plan to go on strike from 3rd December if annual negotiations with employers over pay and working conditions were to fail. The negotiations cover drillers, well service crews, divers and other workers at oil industry subcontractors.

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Poland

Labour market index up

November 30, 2020

According to Bureau for Investments and Economic Cycles, the Labour Market Index (WRP), which predicts future changes in the level of unemployment, went up to 71.2 points in November from 67.2 in October. The report also suggests negative effects of the pandemic on the labour market. It said it was worth considering the matter of "significant restrictions on labour supply, which has been pointed out by employers for a long time."

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Number of temporary employees down by 11%

November 27, 2020

The number of temporary employees fell by 11% during the third quarter of 2020 compared to the same period of the previous year, according to data from the Human Resources Forum. When compared to the previous month, the number of temporary employees in Poland increased by 13% in the third quarter of 2020.

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Portugal

Postal workers strike

November 20, 2020

Workers at package transport company CTT strike in defence of wage increases for 2020 while calling for the increase in the number of workers providing postal services. According to the National Union of Postal and Telecommunications Workers (SNTCT), the strike is expected to have an important impact on the service and treatment and distribution of post, but that is the intention, for the company to understand the workers' rights.

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School officials on strike

November 17, 2020

Non-teaching staff at schools across the country are to strike in early December to demand better working conditions and a reinforcement of staff. The action also aims to warn that there are establishments where there is a shortage of employees to comply with contingency plans. The strike is due to take place during the first week in December.

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Romania

Advice to cut public sector wages by 20%

November 20, 2020

Romania's National Bank (BNR) chief economist suggested that public sector employees should work only four days a week and have their wages cut by 20%. He also claimed that "it is not normal at all for the average salary in the public sector to be higher than in the private sector". Fiscal consolidation emerged as a hot topic on the public agenda, as the country's public deficit will exceed 9% of GDP this year. Without such measures, the public deficit will exceed 8% of GDP next year.

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Wages grow

November 11, 2020

The average net wage rose to €682 in September, 7.8% more compared to the same month last year. In real terms, the annual advance was 5.2% in September, resulting in an average increase of just over 5% for the whole third quarter of the year. In nominal terms, the net wages increased by over 7% over the same year-on-year period.

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Serbia

Unemployment rises

November 27, 2020

The first wave of COVID-19 pandemic led to 200,000 people being laid off according to the National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED). The Alliance, which assembles some 300 companies, added that the uncertainty in the labour market had a significantly negative impact on minority or marginalised groups.

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Airline to reduce workforce and wages

November 16, 2020

Air Serbia plans to offer financial incentives to encourage employees to voluntarily resign, with the company seeking to reduce its headcount by some 300 staff members as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Furthermore, employees have been told their wages will be reduced starting from December 2020 until March 2021.

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Slovakia

Employment rate falls, wages increase

November 12, 2020

According to figures presented by the Statistical Office (SÚSR), the year-on-year employment rate fell in September in most sectors, but the pace of decline slowed down in most of them compared to August. The largest decrease with 9.1% took place in accommodation by 16.7% and in the restaurant and beverage sector. On the other hand, in September wages increased year-on-year in most sectors, except in sales and repair of motor vehicles, while their growth rate accelerated compared to August.

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Slovenia

Unemployment support

November 18, 2020

The European Commission disbursed €200 million to Slovenia in the form of loans under favourable terms as part of the SURE instrument. In its application for the financial support under SURE, Slovenia listed measures such as the furlough and short-time work schemes, the basic income and exempting the self-employed from the payment of social contributions.

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Wages decline

November 16, 2020

According to the statistical office, the average net monthly earnings went down by a real 0.3% month-on-month to €1,169 in September, after edging up by a real 0.2% in monthly terms in August. In nominal terms, the average net monthly wage declined by a monthly 0.7% in September, following a 0.1% rise in August.

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Spain

Unions fear massive layoffs

November 13, 2020

Unions warn that distressed companies will not be able to retain workers returning from furlough, while the understaffed national employment services struggle to pay out unemployment benefits. The government's ERTE job retention scheme, which kept many distressed businesses afloat during the first lockdown in the spring, is now beginning to feel the pressure.

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Jobs and unemployment benefits grow in October

November 4, 2020

Despite a new surge in coronavirus cases which triggered new restrictions on economic activity, the employment figures improved in October. There were 113,974 new registrations with the Social Security system, considered a measure of job creation. But there were also nearly 50,000 more people who filed for unemployment benefits, according to figures released by the Social Security and Labour ministries.

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Sweden

Effect of the pandemic on working permits

November 27, 2020

Applications for first-time work permits fell during spring and summer, but rose again in autumn. This prompted the Migration Agency to increase its total estimate of work permit applications for the year from 39,000 (predicted in July) to 44,000, which is still around 6,000 less than the agency's estimate in May and around 15,000 fewer than last year.

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Unemployment rate drops

November 19, 2020

The unemployment rate dropped for a second month in a row in October, amid a spike in registered cases of COVID-19 that has prompted tighter restrictions. The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.6%, down from 8.9% a month earlier, Statistics Sweden informed.

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Disagreement on employment law

November 11, 2020

The rules covering the labour market still create heated debate in Swedish politics. It also highlights disagreements between the governing Social Democrats and the Trade Union Confederation LO. On 1 November, the Prime Minister announced that he wished to further review the country's labour market rules. The PTK union, representing salaried employees in the private sector, and the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise agreed on 16 October on how the rules should function in the Swedish labour market. By then, LO had left the so-called LAS (Employment Protection Act) negotiations and refused to sign the final offer.

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Switzerland

Cross-border workers lose their jobs

November 23, 2020

According to a trade union in the canton of Ticino, at least 4,000 cross-border commuters will lose their employment this year, as the coronavirus shut down some industries. Ticino's Ocst union has informed that 3,000 cross-border workers have already lost their jobs in 2020. The number could reach 4,000 by the end of December.

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Unemployment rises

November 13, 2020

Between the 3rd quarter of 2019 and the 3rd quarter of 2020, the number of people employed in Switzerland fell by 0.4% (-21,000). In addition, weekly hours worked per employee decreased by 2.7%. During the same period, the unemployment rate increased from 4.6% to 5.3%. At the end of September 2020, 260,000 workers were without work, an increase of 35,000 compared to the same date in 2019. Those aged 15-24 were worst affected. Unemployment among this group rose from 10.9% to 11.6%.

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Turkey

Employment protection extended

November 26, 2020

The Government has extended various measures to protect employment in the context of the COVID-19 crisis by two months. The periods stipulated for the termination ban for employers, employers' right to send their employees on unpaid leave unilaterally and the duration of short-time work allowance were extended. These measures are part of the package of measures implemented to mitigate the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.

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Employment shield into law

November 12, 2020

The Parliament passed an employment shield package that entails a comprehensive plan to support employment and revive economic activity, especially for sectors worst hit by the pandemic. According to the law, the Government will allocate several types of stimuli to assist employers and employees in the pandemic period. One of these measures sees the government provide premium support to private sector employers who create additional employment compared to the previous year.

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Unemployment rate down slightly

November 10, 2020

The unemployment rate came in at 13.2% in August, a decrease of 0.8 percentage points year-on-year, the Turkish Statistical Office (TurkStat) announced. According to the Statistical Office, the number of unemployed young workers aged 15 and over decreased by 456,000 to 4.2 million as of August compared to the same month last year. The youth unemployment rate aged between 15-24 years stood at 26.1% with a 1.3 percentage point decrease, it added.

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United Kingdom

National living and minimum wage increase

November 25, 2020

The Government has announced the National Living Wage (NLW) and National Minimum Wage (NMW) rates which will come into force from April 2021. It accepted in full the recommendations made by the Low

Pay Commission at the end of October. The National Living Wage will increase by 2.2 % from £8.72 (€9.70) to £8.91 (€9.92) and will be extended to 23 and 24 year olds for the first time. For workers aged under 23, the Low Pay Commission recommended smaller increases in recognition of the risks to youth employment which the current economic situation poses.

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Unemployment rate continues to rise

November 10, 2020

The unemployment rate rose to 4.8% in the three months to September, up from 4.5%, as coronavirus continued to hit the jobs market. Redundancies rose to a record high of 314,000 in the same period, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) informed. Firms made more workers redundant in anticipation of the end of the furlough scheme, which was originally supposed to finish at the end of October.

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