European Trade Union Organisations

Inventory
of the Archive of Social Democracy
and the Library
of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Published on behalf of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung by:
Uwe Optenhögel, Michael Schneider, Rüdiger Zimmermann
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In July 1999 the Executive Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) adopted a resolution which contained the following pertinent observations:

"1. Europe is becoming more and more of an integrated economic area in which thousands of companies carry out their activities across traditional borders.

This reality calls for the Europeanisation of trade unions and for a further increase in their capacity to act at European level through the European Trade Union Confederation and the European Industry Federations.

2. It demands, too, the development of cross-border solidarity in order that the rights of workers on professional placements may be guaranteed and defended irrespective of their national trade union affiliation. . . ."

In times of economic and social upheavals such as they affect Europe today, the trade unions continue to exercise an important function at national and European level as the representatives of working men and women.

The socio-political transformations in the Central and Eastern European countries, and the collapse of their former political systems, have brought freedom of personal expression and economic activity. But debates about the admission of Central and Eastern European neighbours to the European Union (EU) have provoked many questions and anxieties, in the EU itself as well as in candidate states.

Europe-wide union federations, especially the ETUC, and also national trade unions moved quickly and decisively to involve themselves in this process, as they have a special and important role to play during such political and economic transformations.

The documents and publications in our Archive and in our Library bear testimony to this, providing a broad view of specific dimensions to these developments which relate to trade union policy and European policy.

In the light of current discussions of EU enlargement, these collections will meet with growing public interest in Europe.

I therefore welcome the fact that this publication will familiarise an even broader informed public with the comprehensive collections of European trade union documents and publications held by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

Thanks to the very close cooperation between the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the European trade union organisations, as well as unions in many European countries, the Archive and Library will be able to make their large and diverse stock of documents and publications about the European trade union movement available to a wide audience on this continent.

The opening of frontiers in Europe has created new prospects for people in every part of Europe. Its long-lasting division into blocs, coupled with the lack of freedom of movement and information for people in Central and Eastern Europe, engendered images of the “other” side of Europe that were frequently at odds with reality. We wish in particular, therefore, to offer this substantial archive and library material to our neighbours in Central and Eastern Europe as a source of information – for scholarly work, media research or simply as personal input covering an important section of the European trade union movement.

The Board of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung wishes to thank Dr. Willy Buschak of the ETUC and every member of the foundation staff who contributed to this project.

Ernst Breit
Deputy Chairman
of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
Introduction by the publishers

Faced with globalisation on the one hand and advancing European integration on the other, it is almost a platitude to point out that trade unions are challenged, if not compelled, to cooperate with increasing political and organisational speed across national borders. Clearly, in parallel to these processes, international and European associations of trade unions are increasingly attracting academic attention.

For research in history or political science – indeed, the social sciences in general – to be at all feasible, the materials – archives and publications alike – generated by international and European trade union organisations must be preserved and made accessible to scholars. Both the Archive of Social Democracy and the Library of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung have eagerly accepted this task in recent years.

However, it is not enough to collect materials and place them in a format for research. Researchers also need to know what materials are, in fact, available to them. For this reason we decided – shortly after the publication outlining the material from international trade union organisations – to produce a brochure as quickly as possible about collections from European trade union associations. Once again, the Archive of Social Democracy and the Library of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung have compiled a joint index, which, with the help of the Division for International Development Cooperation/Global Trade Union Program and the International Dialogue Unit, we herewith consign to an interested public.

The publishers wish to thank all the staff who have contributed to this index and, in addition, our colleagues in the European trade union organisations who facilitate the continuation of our collections by means of their cooperation and the provision of documents and publications.

Bonn, January 2003

Uwe Optenhögel               Michael Schneider               Rüdiger Zimmermann
Europe, wrote Edo Fimmen, General Secretary of the International Transport Workers’ Federation, in 1924, must not be allowed to become “a great enterprise for the exploitation of all means of production, living or dead”. The aim was not Europe Inc., but rather a United States of Europe.\(^1\) The unions should “seriously address the problem of building a United States of Europe”, the Hamburg Congress of the ITF demanded that same year.\(^2\) In 1926 Wladimir Woytinski published his own book on the “Verenigten Staten von Europa”, in which he argued for a European customs union, a common economic and social policy, a common currency and not least a common government for Europe.\(^3\)

When the European Economic Community (EEC) was founded in 1958, there was no response from the unions until the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) was finally founded 15 years later. Despite all the ideas developed between the Wars, there was no common voice of the European trade union movement when European unification got under way. There was not even a common position on the EEC itself. Supporters and opponents of the European Community remained at loggerheads long after its foundation. The simple, compellingly obvious step of responding to the foundation of a supra-national institution like the European Economic Community with an equally supra-national trade union structure was not taken, neither by unions within the predominantly socialist ICFTU, nor the Christian member unions of the IFTU. Instead, at times there were up to five different organisations formulating European policies in parallel.

Precursors of the ETUC

The oldest, having been founded in 1950, was the European Regional Organisation (ERO) of the ICFTU, with 20 member organisations from 18 European states (plus Saarland and Triest) and headquarters in Brussels. Its general secretary, until his death in 1966, was the former general secretary of the IFTU, Walter Schevenels. The ERO concentrated on drawing up proposals for rebuilding Europe and designed, amongst other things, a public housing programme. The pro-European unions could not agree whether the decisive initiative for unifying the continent would come from the Council of Europe or the Schuman-Plan, which laid the foundation for the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). After the publication of the Schuman-Plan, the ICFTU organised the Ruhr-Konferenz from 22 to 23 May 1950, which resolved to form a European regional organisation of unions from the Schuman-Plan nations. In 1952, within the ECSC context, this became a shared advisory body for national trade union federations and metalworkers’ and miners’ unions from Germany, France, the Benelux countries and Italy, and it was called the 21er Ausschuss [21 Committee] after the number of members. The actual initiative for its formation came from the metalworkers’ and miners’ unions, the ICFTU granting reluctant consent. The task of the 21er Ausschuss was to represent union interests in the ECSC, and it maintained a contact office in Luxemburg (one general secretary plus a staff of two). After the TUC opened its own office in Luxemburg at short notice, it

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2 Hamburger Echo, 8 July 1924.
was accepted as an observer by the 21er Ausschuss, whose relations with the ERO remained frosty. The ERO’s role in developing trade union structures within the framework of European unification was not particularly important. But neither could the 21er Ausschuss bring much influence to bear on the ECSC, because its members’ opinions diverged too widely. After the EEC was founded, the 21er Ausschuss became the Verbindungsbüro Montan [Coal and Steel Liaison Office], which was absorbed into the EMF in 1994.

After the Treaty of Rome was ratified and the EEC founded, ICFTU affiliates from the six EEC member states (DGB, FGTB, NVV, CISL, UIL, CGT-L, CGT-FO) convened in Düsseldorf on 16-17 January 1958 to form the European Trade Union Secretariat (ETUS) as an independent body. The ETUS consisted of representatives from each national organisation, the 21 Committee, the ERO and observers from the International Trade Secretariats. The secretariat’s task was to represent labour interests in negotiations with the EEC, Euratom and the ECSC. In April 1969 the secretariat adopted a new organisational structure and changed its name to European Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ETUC), but in practice it remained no more than a secretariat. The European Regional Organisation of the ICFTU was disbanded the same year.

Parallel to the ETUS, the ICFTU unions in the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) founded a committee in 1960 and a small secretariat to coordinate their activities in 1968. This created an EFTA trade union federation, but its responsibilities were expressly limited to the EFTA states. A liaison committee was set up with the European Confederation of Free Trade Unions and disbanded again in March 1973, after the ETUC’s foundation.

The International Federation of Christian Trade Unions (IFCTU) first set up a liaison office in Luxemburg in 1951, and took another major step towards a supra-national European trade union organisation four years later with the foundation of the Federation of Christian Trade Unions in the ECSC. In 1958 this became the European Organisation of the IFCTU based in Brussels. Sectoral federations began to join in 1961. From 1969, when the IFCTU was renamed World Confederation of Labour, its European structure became the World Confederation of Labour – European Organisation.

Some member federations (CGT, CGIL, Dutch EVC, Luxemburg’s FLA) of the communist World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) set up a Common Market action committee in 1958, but it was ultimately irrelevant and unable to overcome divisions between Europeans and anti-Europeans. The Italian CGIL formed its own office in Brussels in 1963 and then, two years later, set up a joint liaison office with the CGT. The WFTU action committee was disbanded in 1966.

The foundation of the EEC was the first event to initiate the creation of supra-national structures within the European trade union movement. However, these structures were still extremely weak and overlapped one another. Once again, the impetus for further harmonisation came from outside. The 1969 European Summit in The Hague proclaimed the leap from a customs union to economic and currency union, and developed extensive plans to integrate Europe politically. Membership negotiations with the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark were about to begin.

The European Trade Union Confederation

After hefty debates between the ICFTU affiliates in EEC and EFTA states about whether to opt for a narrower or broader European structure (limited to the EEC or extended to the whole of Europe) – with the DGB (German Trade Union Federation) supporting the narrow option and the TUC and Danish unions the broad one – a decision was finally reached in favour of the larger scale. The European Trade Union Confederation was founded in 1973 (Foundation Congress: 8-9 February 1973 in Brussels), embracing 17 trade unions from 15 West European states. Since its inception, the ETUC has been an autonomous organisation and not a regional
grouping of the ICFTU. The ETUC’s constitution identifies its aims as representing and promoting the economic, social and cultural rights of labour at a European level and strengthening democracy in Europe. In 1974 the ETUC was enlarged by 12 Christian trade union federations, and after their admission to the ETUC the World Confederation of Labour – European Organisation was disbanded. In 1975 the CGIL joined the ETUC, which thereby acquired an independent character transcending the political blocs within the labour movement. However, the admission of the communist CCOO from Spain took significantly longer. In 1980 it failed due to resistance by the DGB and did not take place until 1990, this time with DGB support. In the nineties the ETUC significantly expanded its organisational base, with the Portuguese Intersindical joining after the Brussels Congress in 1995 and the French CGT after the Helsinki Congress in 1999. Equally important was the fact that the ETUC cautiously but decisively opened its ranks to trade unions from Central and Eastern Europe after 1989, years ahead of EU enlargement. Today, all representative trade union organisations in Europe are affiliates. Belgium’s liberal trade union federation, the CGSLB, was admitted in November 2002, and it is only a matter of time before the Polish OPZZ follows suit.

In terms of organisational structure, from the very beginning the ETUC was more than just a union secretariat. It consists of Congress, an Executive Committee elected by Congress, an administrative-cum-financial committee (later called the Steering Committee) and a Secretariat. Any self-administered union which is independent of parties and governments can join the ETUC. Membership of an international federation must not contradict the principles of free and independent trade union policies. Federations in competition with each other at national level will be admitted on condition that both sides are willing to cooperate on a European level.

In reality, for a long time the ETUC was not a real federation, but rather a cross between a letterbox and an information point. It had no real responsibilities of its own, nor was it intended to. Trade union political models remained firmly linked to the nation-state. The ETUC’s member organisations were content with their information centre in Brussels. In any case, European integration was proceeding at snail’s pace. It is no surprise that the ETUC did not step out of its shadowy background existence.

The great awakening came in 1985 with the proclamation of the Single European Act, which made completion of the Single Market a legal obligation and carried with it a firm commitment to fulfil this aim by 1992. The Cecchini Report on the effects of the Single Market was brought to the public’s attention with great fanfares. It ignited debates about business location factors in all member states and caused uproar. Everyone was aware of the predictions by Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, that by the mid-nineties 80% of all regulations affecting the economic and social
lives of EC citizens would be decided in Brus-
sels. The shock of the deregulation offensive
announced in conjunction with the Single Mar-
tet dealt a harsh blow to ETUC member organi-
sations and led to a search for common positions
towards a hitherto only vaguely articulated “so-
cial Europe”. At the 1991 Luxemburg congress
of the ETUC, far-reaching structural reforms
were implemented, notably those admitting the
European industry federations as full ETUC
members. Politically, the ETUC made significant
in the nineties, successfully fighting for
Directives on important labour rights, such as
and the Council Directive supplementing the
Statue for a European Company with regard
to the involvement of employees in 2001. The
Social Policy Agreement negotiated with the
European employer federations UNICE and
CEEP in 1991 became a blueprint for the Social
Chapter of the Maastricht Treaty. Social dialogue
between management and labour took a quan-
tum leap from arbitrary declarations to legally
binding framework agreements, most recently,
in 2002, on tele-working. Moreover, a series of
impressive demonstrations at European Sum-
mits, the largest with 100,000 participants in
December 2001, has provided evidence of the
ETUC’s potential to mobilise.

The ETUC has created a structure for cross-
border cooperation in the form of the Interre-
gional Trade Union Councils (ITUCs). The first
was formed in 1976 in the Saarland-Lorraine-
Luxemburg region, and there are now 39 of
these councils. A women’s committee and a youth
group have existed since the ETUC’s inception;
a coordination committee for retired workers
was formed in 1988 and renamed the Euro-
pean Federation of Retired and Elderly Persons
(EFREP) in 1993. The European Trade Union
Institute (ETUI), founded in 1978, supplies the
ETUC with research on matters such as the
Europeanisation of industrial relations and
employment policy; the European Trade Union
Technical Bureau for Health and Safety (TUTB)
set up in 1989 supports the ETUC with expert-
tise in all areas of standardisation and indus-
trial safety, and finally the European Trade Union
College (ETUCO) was created in 1990 as an
educational and training establishment.

The origins of the European industry
federations

In the fifties, the International Trade Secre-
tariats expressed little sympathy for the ap-
proaching process of European unification. The
IMF refused to coordinate trade union activities
within the ECSC. Similarly, the International
Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant,
Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers’ Associa-
tions (IUF) saw no grounds for a special struc-
ture to coordinate trade union activity in the
EEC. The momentum to set up regional organi-
sations by industrial sector came from the ETUS
rather than the ITS community. Only one Euro-
pean sectoral organisation came into existence
before the ETUS: the Europäische Union der
Film- und Fernsehschaffenden [European Union
of Film and Television Workers] was founded
in 1953, and by 1961 it had 13 member organi-
sations with 14,990 members in 12 European
countries. The other regional industry organisa-
tions in Europe, most of which initially lacked
even a Brussels secretariat, were only formed
in the wake of the EEC’s foundation, and only
in those sectors for which the EEC had a Com-
mon Market structure: agriculture, food and
steel. The European Federation of Agricultural
Workers’ Unions (EFA), the Gewerkschaftliche
Verkehrsausschuss [Committee of Transport
Workers’ Unions] and Gemeinschaftlicher Eu-
ropäischer Ausschuss für die Bau- und Holzsek-
toren [Joint European Committee of Building
and Wood Industries] were founded in 1958.
The steel industry actually delayed creating a
regional federation until five years after the EEC
was born, because the 21er Ausschuss that
later became the Verbindungsbüro Montan al-
ready provided a workable reference. The Eu-
ropean Advisory Committee of the Communi-
cations International was founded in 1965, and
3 years later this became a committee for PTTI
affiliates in the European Community. The next
spate of foundations took place in the seventies,
triggered by the creation of the ETUC: the Eu-
The Union Nationale des Chemins de fer (UNCF) established the first European level employers' organization in 1958, the Europäischer Koordinationsausschuss von Chemie- und Fabrikarbeitergewerkschaften in der Europäischen Gemeinschaft [European Coordination Committee of Chemical and General Workers' Unions in the European Community]. However, a Brussels secretariat was not opened until 30 years later. Between 1961 and 1988 the secretariat of the coordination committee was run by the administrative headquarters of Germany’s sectoral trade union, IG Chemie, Papier, Keramik (Chemicals, Paper and Ceramics Workers’ Union), in Hanover. In the eighties the European coordination committee represented 19 trade unions from all nine Common Market states with a total of 1.4 million members, but all of them were within the ICFTU constituency. Despite ETUC enlargement, the Christian unions were absent from this structure for a long time.

Nine building and woodworker unions from the six EC Member States founded a Gemeinschaftlichen Europäischen Ausschuss für die Bau- und Holzsektoren in 1958, with headquarters in Amsterdam which moved to Frankfurt in 1964 and finally relocated to Brussels in August 1968. The creation of an independent European Federation of Building and Woodworkers in the Community (EFBWW) was not undertaken until 1974. This European federation, although independent of the International Federation of Building and Woodworkers (IFBWW), confined itself to providing information until, after a debate about reforms, it was granted the option of coordinating trade union activity in Europe in 1979. Simultaneously, a permanent secretariat was set up in Brussels, although a full-time general secretary was not installed until 1988. The European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) was admitted to the ETUC in 1983.

The Gewerkschaftlicher Verkehrsausschuss in der Europäischen Gemeinschaft (GVEG) was founded in 1958 by ITF member organisations in the EEC, without the support and against the express will of the ITF. It remained caught in this dual role, being both an organ for representing ITF policy within the EEC and an autonomous body with its own structures, until after the first round of Common Market enlargement in the seventies and the foundation of the ETUC. The GVEG was constituted as an independent organisation, and the ITF’s 20% contribution to its budget abandoned. The competences of the two organisations were separated but their personnel was interlinked. The ITF general secretary was simultaneously the vice-president of the GVEG, and their secretariats were represented at each other’s general assembly and coordination committee. After these structural reforms, the committee was also officially acknowledged by the ETUC. Its membership and activity base thereby expanded, and in 1996 this resulted in the formation of the Federation of Transport Workers’ Unions in the European Union (FST), which held its first congress in Luxemburg on 10-11 November 1997. The organisation was divided into seven sections (in line with the major fields of transportation). Its statutes were altered to allow the general secretary to represent the FST in negotiations with the EU. The congress called for a working group to demarcate its responsibilities from those of the ITF, which still maintained a European section. Few trade unions from Central and Eastern Europe were present at the inauguration congress and none of them was
a member of the FST, which three years later became the European Transport Workers’ Federation (ETF) when, at its foundation congress in Brussels on 14-15 June 1999, the FST merged with European ITF affiliates. With headquarters in Brussels, the ETF now organises 3 million workers in 34 European countries.

European trade union work in the food, drinks and tobacco industry and the hotel sector was obstructed for many years because two organisations with more or less identical tasks and a largely similar membership existed side by side: the European Trade Union Committee of Food and Allied Workers in the Community (ETUCF), founded in 1959, and the EURO-IUF. The ETUCF levied its own membership fees and saw itself as a regional organisation within the ICFTU. The autonomy of the ETUCF was justified by the peculiar structure of the EEC, argued Herbert Stadelmeier, leader of the German NGG (Food, Beverages and Catering Workers’ Union), at the IUF congress in Geneva 1973. These tasks could be performed by an IUF regional organisation, came the reply. In 1975 the IUF created its own regional organisation (foundation conference of the EURO-IUF: 31 January-1 February 1975). The ETUCF and the EURO-IUF both applied for ETUC recognition, but both requests were refused. Cooperation between the two bodies began to materialise in 1976, and was formalised in 1979: the EURO-IUF was to be responsible for multinational corporations, the ETUCF for EEC relations. But in practice both dealt with the same problems, in separate meetings, with almost the same people present, but without coordination and not always reaching the same conclusions. This division of labour became utterly obsolete when the European Community began drawing up legislative proposals for employees’ information and consulting rights in multinational corporations. The NGG then suggested combining these two European structures, although this did not actually happen until 1983. The new European Federation of Food, Catering and Allied Workers’ Unions within the IUF (ECF-IUF) was founded as an IUF regional organisation with more autonomy than usual, and it automatically included all unions that had been members of either the ETUCF or EURO-IUF at the time of its inception. This dichotomy – autonomous organisation within the European Community on the one hand, regional organisation of an ITS on the other, remained unresolved when the ECF-IUF merged with the European Federation of Agricultural Workers’ Unions (EFA) in 2000 to form the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT). The statutes describe EFFAT as both an autonomous European trade union federation and a regional organisation of the IUF.

In 1963 the European Metal Committee was founded by seven metalworkers’ unions in the EEC (all members of the ICFTU), initially as an informal grouping without a structure or programme. In 1968 the metalworkers in the CFDT joined this Metal Committee, which became the European Metalworkers’ Federation (EMF) in 1971. In the early 1980s the EMF had 29 affiliates in 12 countries and a total of 6 million members. The EMF considers its primary purpose to be coordinating its affiliates’ policies on wages and working hours, supporting a European industrial policy that balances competition against jobs and pursuing the social dialogue between management and labour in the European shipbuilding, metalworking and automobile industries. The secretariat is responsible for three standing committees: collective bargaining, European works councils, and industrial policy. Within the field of industrial policy there are working groups on the automobile industry, steel, shipbuilding, the defence industry, aerospace, and the information and communication technologies.

The European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) was founded in 1978. It is responsible for a multitude of different economic and professional activities in the public sector.

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It sees its task in improving understanding of the role of the public sector within the process of European integration, as well as the development of suitable structures for industrial relations with public sector employers. A committee for social dialogue in the electricity industry was formed with management represented by the employers’ organisation of the electricity industry. There are similar initiatives for social dialogue with employers’ federations in the health sector. Four standing committees address vocational and professional development in national and European administration, local administration, health and social services, and public utilities.

EURO-FIET was founded in 1972 as the European regional organisation of the international white-collar federation FIET. It was the only FIET regional organisation to levy its own fees, but still received subsidies from its international parent body. EURO-FIET and its successor UNI-Europa are less independent of FIET and the international trade secretariat UNI than their European counterparts in other structures. In 1975 EURO-FIET received early ETUC recognition as an industry federation.

The European regional organisation of the textile, garment and leather unions was created in 1975 from an information and research office established in 1963 to assist the textile and garment sector unions in preparing for a common European market. As this regional organisation refused to admit the Italian sector union FILTEA, a member of the CGIL, until 1987, it was not recognised by the ETUC until 1988. Its first congress took place in 1993, when the European Trade Union Federation for Textiles, Clothing and Leather (ETUF-TCL) was founded. The second congress in Porto in 1997 completed its transformation into a European industrial federation, and the executive committee was granted the mandate to coordinate negotiations with employers. Social dialogue between management and labour in this sector focuses on specific themes, notably the recognition of international social standards by transnational corporations and the social dimension of globalisation.

The European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) was formed in 1975 from ICFTU and WCL affiliates along with some organisations that belonged to none of the (four existing) Internationals. The ETUC hesitated before recognising the committee. In terms of structure, this industrial federation was unique: it had no staff in Brussels, such tasks being performed by the ITS, ICFTU and WCL secretariats. Administrative matters were dealt with by representatives of the International Trade Secretariats, while the European affiliates themselves had no influence. Mobility for academic staff, the vital link between the compulsory education system and vocational training, and the role of education within the development of a European identity were the committee’s key political themes. Following the merger between two international federations of teachers’ unions, the committee altered its structure, adopting a new statute in 1993 which finally allowed affiliates to elect representatives directly to the executive committee and created the post of full-time general secretary.

The smallest European industry federation and the last to be founded was the Europäische Gewerkschaftsbund der Diamant- und Edelsteinarbeiter [European Alliance of Diamant Workers]. It was established and admitted to the ETUC in 1995, but has since ceased all activities.

In 1993 the Council of European professional and managerial staff (EUROCADRES) was founded, with a secretariat initially provided by EURO-FIET. Since 2001 EUROCADRES has had its own secretariat on ETUC premises. Formally EUROCADRES is not an independent European industry federation, but de facto the council is increasingly growing into this role. It represents almost 5 million employees in managerial positions.

Structure and policy of the European industry federations

The structure of most European industry (i.e. sectoral) federations is similar to that of the ETUC. There is a congress which assembles
every four years, an executive committee that meets at least twice a year, a steering committee to prepare the executive committee’s meetings, a secretariat and a number of standing committees and ad hoc working groups. Instead of an executive committee, the European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers’ Federation (EMCEF) has an annual general assembly. Each organisation is headed by a president (as well as vice-presidents from affiliates of various sizes), a general secretary and a deputy general secretary, all of whom are elected by congress. Most European industry federations have considerably enlarged their secretariats over time. The EMCEF secretariat, for example, now has a staff of nine.

Enhancing social dialogue between management and labour in their respective sectors is the key pursuit of all European industry federations. At the level of the umbrella organisation, the ETUC, dialogue began in 1985 based on simple meetings with employers’ federations and has since led to four European framework agreements. The industry federations, by contrast, are only just setting off down this road. Granted, in 1998 there were nine committees with equal management and labour representation in, for example, the transport and telecommunication sectors, and a further nine informal working groups, not to mention eight rounds of informal discussions between unions and employers to address economic and social problems in their respective sectors. But out of almost 100 joint statements, not one is binding.

On 20 May 1998 the European Commission decided to dissolve the former Branch Committees on the Social Dialog and – due entirely to joint requests from the unions and employers – create new branch committees instead. This has now been implemented in 14 cases. So far only two agreements have been reached: one between the ETF and the shipowners federation covering working hours, and another between the EFA and the European agricultural employers’ organisation, the Comité Professionnel Agricole (COPA), limiting annual working hours to 1,800.

All European industrial federations consider co-ordinating the European works councils (there are already more than 700) and developing working relations at European level a key aim. Most have followed the example of the EMF and its Task Force on European Works Councils, setting up bodies to coordinate their work with and for European Works Councils more effectively and appointing coordinators to support European Works Councils in key multinational corporations. However, most industrial federations do not have enough staff to support all European Works Councils effectively. This dilemma will be exacerbated by renegotiations on workers’ participation rights in European Companies, in existence since 1994.

Only four out of fourteen European industrial federations currently have a committee to coordinate collective bargaining negotiations. Except for the EMF, which has had such a committee since its inception, they were not set up by other federations until the nineties: 1995 (EGF), 1996 (EMCEF), 1997 (ETUF-TCL). The EPSU and EFBWW have working groups...
to discuss and exchange information. Coordinating collective bargaining negotiations is now a key issue in the EFBWW action programme for 2001-2003. The ECF-IUF and EURO-FIET have held European conferences on the matter of coordinating collective bargaining negotiations, an indication that they are aware of the importance of the subject, but this does not mean that anything is actually being done in practice. At its third conference on collective bargaining policy on 9-12 December 1998 in Frankfurt, the EMF passed a resolution recommending a "formula" for coordinating policy: inflation should be compensated and workers paid an appropriate share for productivity gains. The resolution passed by the EMF congress the year after provided orientation that other industry federations are attempting to follow. The information network on collective bargaining disseminates an annual report of negotiated outcomes in the metalworking sector. In 1998 the ETUF-TCL adopted a protocol on working hours that committed all affiliates to introducing a 35-hour week or equivalent throughout the sector. A year later, a framework was defined for wage demands: wages must rise faster than inflation and ensure that workers are paid a fair share of profits from increased productivity. The Toledo congress in 2001 called for Europe-wide negotiations with employers on reducing and restructuring hours of work.

Mergers between industry federations

The nineties witnessed mergers of various European industry federations from closely related sectors. The ECF-IUF and EFA took the basic decision to amalgamate in 1993, and this intention was confirmed by later congresses until the process was initiated in practice in 1998. The new organisation was finally conceived in the form of EFFAT at the Luxemburg congress on 11-12 December 2000. The impetus for this merger was a desire to unite all trade unions concerned with food, from growing it to eating it, in a single European structure. In this case, the European federation has no equivalent at national levels: in Germany, for example, farm workers belong to IG-BAU (Building, Agriculture and the Environment Workers’ Union), while food workers remain members of the sector’s NGG. Merger processes often follow one pattern at national level and another at European level: Germany’s IG BAU is affiliated to two different European industry federations, EFFAT and the EFBWW, while IG Metall (Metal Workers’ Union) actually belongs to three federations: the EMF, EFBWW and ETUF-TCL.

The European Federation of Chemical and General Workers’ Unions (EFCGU) and the Miners’ European Federation (MEF) united in 1996 to form EMCEF. When the fusion between FIET, Communications International, the International Graphical Federation and the Media and Entertainment International (MEI) was sealed on 1 January 2000, giving rise to Union Network International (UNI), their respective European regional structures also joined forces. The new organisation was named UNI-Europa. Like EURO-FIET and FIET before them, UNI-Europa and UNI continue to be linked by a common secretariat, and the UNI-Europa secretariat in Brussels is headed by a director, not a general secretary like other industry federations. Furthermore EURO-MEI has joined with two other international organisations, the International Federation of Actors (FIA) and the International Federation of Musician (FIM) to found a European federation: the European Arts and Entertainment Alliance (EEA), its aim being to coordinate wage negotiations for workers in the arts in Europe.
Relations between European industry federations and the ETUC

When the European Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ECFTU) was founded in 1969, the European sectoral committees acquired an advisory voice within its organs. When the ETUC was founded, the matter of relations between European trade unions and the ETUC needed to be redefined. In June 1973 the ETUC's executive committee defined the conditions under which these sectoral committees would be officially recognised by the ETUC. They had to organise throughout the European Community, they had to be open to all unions in their industrial sector that were members of an umbrella organisation affiliated to the ETUC, and they had to be independent bodies with a number of permanent structures.

The first of these industry federations to be recognised by the ETUC were: the EMF, EFA, EURO-FIET, Europäischer Gewerkschaftsausschuss Kunst und Unterhaltung [European trade union committee of art and entertainment], the Montan-Ausschuss and the PTTI's European committee. By the end of the seventies these had been joined by the GVEG in the EC, EPSU and ETUCF/ECF-IUF. In 1983 the EFBWW followed, then in 1988 the ETUF-TCL and EFCGU. Conflicts have repeatedly taken place between the ETUC and some of its industry federations on the matter of membership – according to the ETUC statutes, all European industry federations must accept any union that is a member of an ETUC affiliate. However, this rule has not always been respected in practice.

The Luxemburg congress in May 1991 decided that the European industry federations should be full members of the ETUC, with a seat and a vote in all its organs, from congress via the executive and steering committees to the various working groups and negotiating delegations. They were excluded only from financial decisions, as they did not pay any fees to the ETUC. Another decision was taken at Luxemburg to restructure the ETUC and it now rests on two pillars, the national affiliates and the European industry federations. With that, an idea first expressed by Edo Fimmen in the twenties finally came to fruition.

European industry federations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Affiliated organisations</th>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Members (in millions)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EMF</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td>EPSU</td>
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<td>32</td>
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<td>EMCEF</td>
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<td>2,4</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ETF</td>
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<td>EEA</td>
<td>81</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Status: 2002
Members within the territory covered by ETUC organisation
Profile of the Archive of Social Democracy (AdsD) of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

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der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
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Opening times:
Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Archive of Social Democracy (AdsD) in the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung opened in June 1969. They follow in the long tradition of the former SPD party archives, with roots in the 19th-century dawn of German social democracy.

Today the AdsD are one of the leading institutions to address the history of the German and international labour movement in Europe. They are not merely an obvious choice for research into the history of German social democracy, but have become “the largest trade union archive in Germany, and it takes up a top position in an international ranking” (Klaus Schönhoven).

The focus of the collections

The AdsD holds the historical records of the Executive Committee of Germany’s Social Democratic Party, along with the collections of the parliamentary party, both at federal and Länder level, and of regional structures (branches in the Länder and districts, including subdivisions). Since German unification, the AdsD has also acquired the old records of the Social Democratic Party in the GDR (SDP/SPD), including those of the parliamentary party in the East German Volkskammer. It is gradually expanding this collection by obtaining the old records of regional structures and the parliamentary groups of the SPD in the Landtag of the new Länder.

Apart from that, a new major area of collection has developed over the last 17 years. It is about the archive material of the German and international trade union movement. One has to mention in particular the archive of the DGB
(German Trade Union Federation), the archive of the IG Metall (Metal Workers’ Union), the archive of the DAG (German Salaried Employees Union) and of the other founding members of ver.di (United Services Union), i.e. the DPG (German Postal Workers Union), the HBV (Commerce, Banking, and Insurance Workers’ Union), and the IG Medien (Media Workers’ Union).

From the realm of the international union federations, there are noteworthy collections from the International Federation of Building and Woodworkers (IFBWW), the International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees (FIET), the International Graphical Federation (IGF), the International Metalworkers’ Federation (IMF) and the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers’ Associations (IUF).

The AdsD see it as a priority to preserve the personal papers and deposits of major figures in the German labour movement. Some of these collections are very extensive, and they include the personal papers of numerous social democratic politicians as well as documents from key trade unionists and others active in the general context of German social democracy. Noteworthy here are the Willy Brandt Archive, the Helmut Schmidt Archive and the Herbert Wehner Archive, not to mention the posthumous papers and deposits of Gustav Heinemann, Paul Levi, Annemarie Renger, Ludwig Rosenberg and Carlo Schmid.

There has also been a considerable increase in the acquisition of records from organisations close to the German and international labour movement, the European Movement and various more recent movements devoted to social causes and emancipation. Examples include the German Council of the European Movement and the European Movement Germany, the Europe Union Germany and the Young European Federalists.

The archives currently (2002) embrace over 40,000 linear metres of folders and papers, including about 1,000 personal records donated, bequeathed or deposited with the Archives by politicians and trade unionists.

There are also large collections of media such as photographs, leaflets, posters, films, videos, audio documents and traditional banners.

After pilot projects devoted to cataloguing leaflets and digitalising posters, the AdsD are now taking part in a Europe-wide project for the digital processing of printed materials for global use via the Internet (METAe).

The AdsD also belong to the International Council on Archives (ICA), the International Association of Labour History Institutions (IALHI) and the International Conference of Labour and Social History (ITH).
European Trade Union Organisations Archives within the AdsD

European Federation of Food, Catering and Allied Workers’ Unions within the IUF (ECF-IUF) 1977 – 2000 44.50 lm

European Federation of Agricultural Workers’ Unions (EFA) 1958 – 1997 23.50 lm

European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) 1964 – 1999 32.50 lm

European Landworkers’ Federation (ELF) / International Landworkers’ Federation (ILF) 1920 – 1970 3.40 lm

European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers’ Federation (EMCEF) 1958 – 1997 17.50 lm

European Metalworkers’ Federation (EMF) 1962 – 1999 89.75 lm

European Transport Workers’ Federation (ETF) 1961 – 2001 68.00 lm

European Trade Union Federation for Textiles, Clothing and Leather (ETUF-TCL) 1962 – 1993 0.65 lm

International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees – European Regional Organisation (EURO-FIET) 1991 – 1998 1.00 lm

Status: December 2002
Stocks of the European Trade Union Organisations in the Archive of Social Democracy in the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Hans-Holger Paul

Although they were primarily founded to ensure the preservation and evaluation of the historical legacy of the Social Democratic Party, the Archive of Social Democracy (AdsD) have now become one of Europe’s largest trade union archives. The AdsD collection includes not only practically every document available on German soil from the Allgemeiner Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (ADGB), the DGB’s main predecessor, but also the archives of the DGB, the Deutsche Angestellten-Gewerkschaft (DAG) and numerous other unions, including IG Metall.

The AdsD’s Stocks of documents from the international and European trade union movement has made it one of the leading research facilities in the field. Stocks have been added since the sixties, although the rate of increase has accelerated remarkably since 1994, over two thirds of the current stocks having been acquired in the space of the last five years.

The importance of this collection for research into the German and international trade union movements cannot be overstated. The bulk of German trade union archives from before 1945 were destroyed by wartime turbulence and Nazi rule, but significant collections from the international secretariats in London and Switzerland survived the belligerence. As a consequence, continuity is frequently ensured with relative abundance as far back as the dawn of the trade union movement.

By establishing themselves as a key research facility for trade union history, the AdsD have also succeeded in augmenting this international trade union collection. Material from the International Trade Secretariats amounts to over 1,100 linear metres.\(^5\)

European trade secretariats

AdsD staff began relatively late to turn their attention to the records of European trade secretariats.

Many years ago, however, the AdsD did acquire the complete archive of the International and European Landworkers’ Federations (ILF/ELF). Founded in 1920 as the ILF, the federation was disbanded in 1960 and reborn shortly afterwards in the form of the ELF. It lasted until 1971, when its activities where absorbed by the International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers (IFPAAW) in Geneva.

After several international trade union collections found their way to the AdsD, the first phase of expansion began in the mid-nineties with significant influx from the European Metalworkers’ Federation (EMF). With the records of the International Graphical Federation, acquired in 1990, the AdsD also took on board some initial fragments from its European arm, the European Graphical Federation (EGF). In the course of further additions, a number of EGF records have arrived along with the IGF archive. In order to maintain their historical cohesion, these stocks have not been separated.

The AdsD finally succeeded in filling a significant gap in its collection of materials from European trade union work in the agricultural sectors by acquiring the records of the European Federation of Agricultural Workers’ Unions (EFA) in 1996 and of the European Federation of Food, Catering and Allied Workers’ Unions within the IUF (ECF-IUF) shortly after in 1997.

In recent years, the AdsD has made a name for itself among the European trade secretariats as a reputable place to store their own archives, and a majority have, indeed, handed over their papers to the AdsD for safekeeping. This notably includes the significant archives of the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) and the European Transport Workers’ Federation (ETF). A recent contractual agreement with the European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers’ Federation (EMCEF) has also secured for research the archives of its two predecessors, the MEF and the EFCGU.

The significance of the stocks

Collections from the European trade unions fall into two major groups. In one, the work of the European trade secretariat was performed for a long time by the office of the international secretariat. This type of structure includes the link between the IGF and EGF and the closely dovetailed activities of FIET and EURO-FIET. Other organisations, however, formed an independent, completely autonomous European branch in the fifties parallel to the first institutions of the European Community. e.g. the European Federation of Agricultural Workers’ Unions (EFA) or the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW). As European unification progressed, independent European secretariats emerged one by one, charged with handling social dialogue between management and labour and the Europe-wide coordination of national trade union activities. One example of this was establishing European works councils. A new field of work appeared with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc. This posed a new challenge to all

West European trade unions, as the introduction of capitalist market economy structures in Central and Eastern Europe called for the correspondingly rapid creation of new democratic trade unions, or else the fundamental restructuring of the old ones, in order to defend the interests of working people effectively.

These newfound tasks have to some extent already been reflected in European trade secretariat archives, although we must assume that only a small proportion of the relevant material has so far been made available to the AdsD.

In addition to this, the collections paint a clear picture of the role played by Europe’s trade union associations in constructing a social Europe. Not only is it easy to trace the processes
of trade union activity in, for example, setting up the Coal and Steel Community, but the archives also provide insight into the difficulties of creating an institutional framework for exerting some influence in this increasingly integrated Europe while coordinating affiliates and motivating them to participate in joint endeavours. Finally, the materials document the spectrum of social dialogue between management and labour in Europe, as trade unions sought to work and argue with employers’ organisations in developing common social standards, participation rights and so forth for Europe.

All AdsD stocks have been pre-ordered to simplify research, and for some archives there are accompanying guides or at least partial search aids.

As the AdsD contains the records of many European precursor organisations and committees as well as the archives of European and international secretariats, these complementary materials facilitate the reconstruction of comprehensive contexts. This is particularly because many international trade secretariats actually began their existence in Europe, with European trade unions often providing the bulk of their membership until the fifties or sixties. It was not infrequent for international trade secretariats to be in charge of European policy issues, and this has had effects, albeit of different magnitudes, on the archives from various international organisations. In a way, these interrelations between the archives mirror the development of an independent European trade union structure. Another useful contribution is provided by the comprehensive archives of the respective German trade unions, most of which are also held by the AdsD. As the German trade unions have almost always played an important role within the European and international trade union movement, it is not surprising to find a large quantity of written documentation here concerning European federations and secretariats and their various activities.

To round off this overview, the AdsD boasts diverse additional material relating to Europe and its history, including the personal papers of numerous social democratic Euro-politicians, archives from members of the European administration, e.g. European Commissioner Monika Wulf-Mathies, and collections donated by various European organisations.

All in all, this extremely broad base of sources provided by AdsD is extraordinarily useful for researching into Europe’s social and economic history and the history of the trade unions. In this context, we should not fail to mention that the archives of the international and European federations WFTU (remaining archives), ICFTU and ETUC are held by the International Institute of Social History (IISH) in Amsterdam, and that some important European materials, e.g. the old records of the Economic and Social Committee (ESC) and residual files of the European Socialist Group, can be found in the historical archive of the European Communities in Florence.

A further extremely valuable contribution is made by the complementary activities of the library of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, which, sometimes with AdsD support and sometimes on its own, has acquired and catalogued substantial library materials from the international and European trade secretariats. Work is currently under way, partly in the form of projects and with a view to the future, to obtain ongoing library input (books, brochures, information bulletins and journals). This goes hand in hand with Internet-based services for the secretariats who supply these products.

Acquisition

Although the AdsD have refrained from acquiring national material – preferring, for example, to advise and support individual trade unions in setting up their own archives, a far more pro-active strategy designed to preserve the records has deliberately been pursued at European and international levels. The aim has been to prevent the loss of historically valuable archives and to ensure the broadest possible reservoir for research into European and international trade union activities. This task continues. One merely has to look at the numerous mergers taking place in the international and European trade union sector. At European level in particular, this often affects small secretariats whose historical traditions do not reach back into the foundation era of the international trade secretariats. Recently, papers have repeatedly fallen prey to office restructuring or relocation and other such changes. Here, archivists have a particular responsibility to ensure that records are salvaged.

In the course of securing such materials, the AdsD staff thought it important to recognise the role of other archives where this made sense from a research perspective. When asked their opinion as to whether the ETUC archives should be held by the IISH or the Historical Archive of the European Communities in Florence, AdsD staff weighed the arguments and eventually came out in favour of the IISH, given that the archives of other trade union federations, including fragments from some trade secretariats, are already held in Amsterdam, and in cases of doubt it was felt that most academics researching projects on the history of the international or European labour movement would initially contact either the IISH or the AdsD.

Summing up, it can be said that, whereas the AdsD have refrained at national level from acquiring materials and preferred to support the development of independent archives, at European and international levels the AdsD have consciously pursued a far more active strategy for securing archives, and will continue to do so in order to ensure the broadest possible reservoir of sources on European and international trade union activity for the purposes of research.

In this spirit, the AdsD see themselves, in conjunction with the Library of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, as a service to researchers and a partner for the trade unions.
The European Federation of Food, Catering and Allied Workers’ Unions within the IUF (ECF-IUF) was an important stage in the development of food sector trade unions at European level. Its foundation brought together two organisations that had existed in parallel in Europe. The European Trade Union Committee of Food and Allied Workers in the Community (ETUCF) and the European Regional Organisation of the IUF (EURO-IUF) approved the merger at the 3rd General Assembly of the ETUCF on 25 November 1981 in Helsingør (Denmark). Thereafter the ECF-IUF functioned as the European Regional Organisation of the IUF with financial and political autonomy within the umbrella organisation. These special rights allowed the ECF-IUF to develop a greater independence at European level. The ECF-IUF was recognised as an industry federation by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). Erik-Toxvaerd Nielsen was elected first president of the ECF-IUF. As he was to leave this position during the legislative period, his successor was also appointed. Arthur Ladrille took over as president on 5 July 1983. The first general secretary was Otto Staadt, who passed his mandate on to Harald Wiedenhofer eight years later. The ECF-IUF’s aim was to coordinate and cluster union affiliate activities, actively defending workers’ interests before national European institutions. This included promoting social dialogue with employers’ confederations at the European level. A decision was made in early 1993 to merge with the European Federation of Agricultural Workers’ Unions (EFA) to form a more powerful European trade union structure. Negotiations between the two federations followed, resulting in a merger on 11 December 2000. The new European organisation was baptised the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT).

Since 1997 the AdsD have gradually been acquiring segments of the ECF-IUF archive material. A short index is available for parts of the collection. The files of subordinate bodies are available all the way back to the foundation phase, the minutes of the steering and executive committees, for example, being almost complete. Most prominent among the other materials are documents on social dialogue, the correspondence and files on cooperation with affiliates, women’s committee documents and circulars. Besides the organisation’s archives there are some personal papers from Otto Staadt, the former secretary of the Brussels office of the ETUCF and ECF-IUF.

The material takes up 44.50 linear metres. The period of time covered is from 1977 to 2000. The stock includes material from the precursor organisation ETUCF.
European Federation of Agricultural Workers’ Unions (EFA)

Martin Raabe

The EFA was founded in 1958 as an autonomous umbrella for agricultural trade unions in Europe. It was a member of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and its aims were securing the future of the agricultural sector, a common economic and ecological order in Europe, and fair labour standards. It ultimately numbered 40 affiliates in 25 countries. On 11 December 2000 the EFA merged with the European Federation of Food, Catering and Allied Workers’ Unions within the IUF (ECF-IUF) to form the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT).

Since 1995 the task of archiving EFA documents has been the responsibility of the Archive of Social Democracy (AdsD), which accordingly obtained material in 1995, 1996, 1998 and 2000. The stock is organised to reflect the federation’s structure, with almost complete chronological coverage for most areas. The focus is on the period from the 1970s to the late 1990s.

The oldest documents include the congress papers of several EFA predecessors between 1958 and 1967. The federation’s own congresses are documented from 1973 till 1997. The material includes partial documentation of the congress preparation process, delegate and guest lists, invitations, programmes and adopted resolutions.

The organisation’s activities can be traced in great detail from the respective minutes, (executive committee 1973-1997; steering committee 1976-1997), respective correspondence (1974-1997) and numerous circulars along with their enclosures (1983-1997) in the named periods. In this context there is also material from the work of the committees (1990-1994) and the European Study and Training Centre in the agricultural Sector (CEEFA, 1980-1993).

Furthermore, there is documentation of the EFA’s great commitment to, above all, the Joint Committee for the social problems of agricultural workers, where the chair alternates between the EFA and the European agricultural employers’ federation Comité Professionnel Agricole (COPA). Key points within this part of the stock are the working groups, e.g. “Forestry” or “Harmonisation”, and EFA involvement in Eastern integration projects (1989-1996) launched by the European Union. Information is primarily provided here in the form of brief reports from the respective working group, general correspondence (until 1997), minutes of meetings and member lists for the Joint Committee for the social problems of agricultural workers.

Finally the collection documents conferences, meetings and seminars in the period from 1986 till 1995.

The material takes up 23.50 linear metres and is accessible via a short inventory; the period of time covered is from 1958 to 1997.
The roots of the EFBWW can be traced back to the Gemeinschaftlichen Europäischen Ausschuss für die Bau- und Holzsektoren [Joint European Committee for the Building and Woodworking Sector] founded in Luxemburg in 1958.

Under the umbrella of the International Federation of Building and Woodworkers (IFBWW), the building and timber unions of the six EEC member states decided to found a liaison committee that would both serve the interests of all building and woodworkers and coordinate the individual building and woodworker’s trade unions. The Nordic Federation of Building and Woodworkers (NFBWW) that had already been founded in 1952 in Stockholm was playing a leading role in cooperation between national trade union movements in Europe. The building and woodworkers’ trade unions of Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland were able to represent the interests of their members effectively as a single block via the NFBWW.

The Gemeinschaftlicher Europäischer Ausschuss für die Bau- und Holzsektoren worked parallel to and independently from the IFBWW, but maintained regular contacts with the international federation.

In May 1974 the first General Assembly in Salerno (Italy) voted to transform the Gemeinschaftlicher Europäischer Ausschuss für die Bau- und Holzsektoren into a European Federation of Building and Woodworkers’ in the EEC (EFBWW). Two industrial committees were formed within the federation, one each for the building and woodworking sectors, to be able to react to specific sectoral problems. The secretariat has maintained a permanent presence in Brussels since 1981. In 1983 the statutes
were changed and the tag “in the Community” was dropped. From then on the name was European Federation of Building and Woodworkers. By the time of its 7th General Assembly in November 1995, the EFBWW had 50 affiliates in 18 European countries representing approx. 3 million members.

Apart from early key issues in trade union activity, the EFBWW has expanded and stepped up its work since 1980. Important pillars of EFBWW strategy include developing a European trade union policy for the woodworking and building sectors, pursuing social dialogue with management and coordinating joint trade union efforts within large European undertakings (EFBWW – Multi project).

The documents were acquired in 1999 and 2000 at the EFBWW’s Brussels office.

The collection includes files of Gemeinschaftlichen Europäischen Ausschuss für die Bau- und Holzsektoren correspondence on affiliates from the years 1964-1968.

There is much more substantial documentation of the period between 1975 and 1999: Documents exist from the principal organs: the executive committee (1976–1999) and the management committee (1991–1994). Every general assembly is covered from 1976 to 1991. There are also documents relating to the woodworkers’ committee from 1991 to 1999 and the building committee from 1976 to 1999. Particularly interesting is the approach to developing dialogue with management bodies, and correspondence between the two sides in the building sector is documented for the period 1990-1996. The stock also includes activity reports by the secretary and archive material on contacts with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI).


There are notable additional materials in the form of a substantial collection of tapes and cassettes recording various meetings of the executive committee, the industrial committees and general assemblies in the period from 1979 till 1987.

The material takes up 32.50 linear metres; the period of time covered is from 1964 to 1999.
The establishment of the European Landworkers’ Federation (ELF) was directly connected with the merger of the International Landworkers’ Federation (ILF) and the Plantation Workers International Federation (PWIF) to form the International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers (IFPAAW).

The ILF, the direct predecessor of the ELF, was founded in Amsterdam in August 1920. The organisation was led by the executive committee and the so-called International Secretary. The president of the Dutch Landworkers’ Federation, Piet Hiemstra was elected as the first International Secretary and Utrecht thus became the headquarters of the secretariat. Over the course of the years this changed several times as new Secretaries took over. Finally the headquarters moved back to Utrecht in the Netherlands following the election of Dutchman Adri de Ruijter in 1950.

At the 15th Congress of the ILF in Copenhagen in 1958, it was decided to open negotiations with the Plantation Workers International Federation (PWIF) on forming a joint professional Secretariat. On 1 December 1959 an extraordinary Congress of the ILF in Brussels passed a resolution agreeing to a merger with the PWIF, and a merging Congress was held at the same place on 2 December 1959. The new professional Secretariat of the International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers (IFPAAW) began work on 1 January.
1960 and Brussels was chosen as the headquarters of the organisation.

Simultaneously it was decided to establish regional organisations. The ILF was dissolved in its existing form, then reconstituted on 1 January 1960 as the European Landworkers’ Federation (ELF) which continued the activities of the former European ILF member associations. The organisation’s sphere of action includes the national associations in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, England, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Scotland, Sweden and Switzerland. Helmut Schmalz was elected as first president of this regional organisation. Adri de Ruijter, who was Secretary of the ILF from 1950, was General Secretary of the ELF until his death in January 1971. The system of holding a Congress every three years was retained, and the ILF’s assets and liabilities were taken over by the ELF, with the headquarters remaining in Utrecht. Financial problems in the ensuing years led to financial and organisational problems and following a resolution by the Congress the ELF was dissolved on 30 June 1971. Its activities were carried by the Secretariat of the IFPAAW in Geneva.

The assets, transferred to the Archive of Social Democracy on the initiative of Adri de Ruijter, include both the archives of the ELF and its predecessor organisation the ILF. These include the minutes of the board meetings from 1950, circulars from the Secretariat from 1958, correspondence from 1957, ILF/ELF publications from 1920 and the ILF bulletin, published as the ELF bulletin from March 1960, from 1946. It also documents the disappearance of the Land Workers International, which resulted from the prevailing agricultural conditions (massive reduction in the number of workers etc.). Since the ILF structure for the European regional organisations remained even after the formation of the IFPAAW, the ILF archives were not separated from those of the ELF.

The material takes up 3.40 linear metres and is accessible via a short inventory; the period of time covered is from 1920 to 1970.
European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers’ Federation (EMCEF)

Sabina Huppertz

The European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers’ Federation (EMCEF) established itself on 20 March 1996 at its founding Congress in Luxembourg. It is a merger of the European Federation of Chemical and General Workers’ Unions (EFCGU) and the Miners European Federation (MEF).

The EMCEF is an independent organisation, which works closely together at regional level with the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers’ Unions, which was founded in 1995. Both organisations have their headquarters in Brussels.

The highest body of the EMCEF is the Congress which is held every four years. The General Assembly, which meets annually, is responsible for policy and decision making between the meetings of the Congress. Other decisions are taken by the Presidium and the Secretariat. Industry specific questions are considered in branch committees, while multi-sector committees handle topics which involve different sectors. When it was founded, the EMCEF grouped 87 unions from 25 countries. By October 2002, the number had risen to 119 member unions from 32 countries.

The Coordinating Committee (later Coordination Committee) of the European Economic Union was the predecessor of the EFCGU and thus of the EMCEF. At its founding meeting in Strasbourg on 24 June 1958, unions from the six Member States of the EEC which were affiliated to the International Federation of Industrial Organisations and General Workers’ Unions (IFIF) decided to set up a Coordinating Committee within the EEC. At the same time industrial committees were established to deal with the specific problems of the relevant industrial sectors and given an advisory role on the Coordinating Committee. Until they had their own Secretariat, the administrative work of the Coordinating Committee and the industrial com-
The Coordinating Committee was carried out initially by the office of the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee in conjunction with the General Secretariat of the IFIF. In 1961 it was decided that the residence of the Secretariat should no longer coincide with the office of the Chairman but should be established at German Chemicals, Paper and Ceramics Workers’ Union (IG Chemie, Papier, Keramik) in Hanover. From its inception, there was close cooperation with the IFIF Secretariat and the European Trade Union Associations’ Secretariat.

There were frequent discussions in 1984 and 1985 about the possible recognition of the Coordinating Committee by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). Following the acceptance of the European Trade Union Committee for Textiles, Clothing and Leather, the Coordinating Committee was the only committee not to have been recognised by the ETUC, which had serious disadvantages as far as effective work was concerned. The successor organisation, the European Federation of Chemical and General Workers’ Unions (EFCGU) was set up on 2 May 1988 in Rome. Its main bodies were the General Assembly, held every four years, the Executive Committee and branch committees. The Secretariat was moved from Hanover to Brussels.

The MEF, which later merged into a partnership with the EFCGU, was set up on 21/22 October 1991 at a founding meeting in Buk, Poland. Structure and staffing were closely linked with the Miners’ International Federation (MIF), and thus qualified at European level as a formally independent mining union. Its Secretariat was based in Brussels.

Resolutions were passed unanimously on merging the two organisations at European level at the Congresses of the EFCGU in June 1993 and the MEF in June 1994. The merger forming the EMCEF was completed in Luxembourg on 20 March 1996.

The papers taken over by the EMCEF in Brussels in August 2000 are mainly archives from the predecessor organisations. The work of the Coordinating Committee is well documented through the minutes of its meetings, circulars, correspondence and the papers of the industrial committees. The time-span of the papers extends back to the 1958 foundation. EFCGU material available dates back to 1988 and includes Congress papers, correspondence and recordings, as well as documents from the executive committee and the sector committees. The archive material of the MEF comprises correspondence and the papers of the committee of management from 1991.

The material takes up 17.50 linear metres; the period of time covered is from 1958 to 1997.
European Metalworkers’ Federation (EMF)

Christine Bobzien

With the foundation in 1952 of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), the Inter Trade Union Committee (Contact Office of the Miners’ and Metalworkers’ Free Trade Unions in the European Communities) and, finally through the Treaty of Rome, the EEC the growing importance of cross border political and economic cooperation became evident. Unions in the steel industry also recognised the need for pan-European union cooperation. And, as a reaction to the way firms were operating in an increasingly trans-national way, they deliberately set out to represent the interests of employees as a counterweight within the EU framework.

In April 1963 seven unions from the six Member States formed the European Metalworkers’ Committee, later known as the Metal Committee, initially as a loose grouping of individual organisations without statutes or a programme. The seven founding members of the Metal Committee were:

- CMB (Centrale des Métallurgistes de Belgique)
- IGM (Industriegewerkschaft Metall)
- FOM (Fédération Confédérée Force Ouvrière de la Métallurgie)
- FIM-CISL (Federazione Italiana Metalmeccanici-CISL)
- UILM (Unione Italiana Lavoratori Metalmeccanici)
- LAV (Letzeburger Arbechter-Verband)
- Metaal-NVV (Metaalbedrijfsbond NVV).

The FGM-CFDT (Fédération Générale de la Métallurgie – CFDT) joined in 1968, the year in which Günter Köpke was appointed Secretary of the Metal Committee with the task of “building a structured framework”. Finally in June 1971 the eight organisations staged their founding Congress and formed the European Metal Workers’ Federation in the Community, which by this time was already representing more than 3 million members. Köpke was appointed the first General Secretary of the EMF.

A working group was formed to help in drawing up statutes, laying down election procedures and producing a financial framework given, in his words, “the minimal number of staff, the lack of clearly defined tasks or structures, the very limited budget and the lack of influence on the Commission”. The long-term political goals of the EMF were laid down in a fundamental action programme, which remained in force for 13 years and was then modified little by little.

In 1973 the unions of the new EC member-countries, the British, the Irish and the Danes, joined the EMF, followed later by the Norwegian and Swedish metalworking unions. The Spa-
nish, Portuguese and Greek associations joined in the 1980’s as, after 1990, did the Turkish, Cypriot and East European organisations. Since 1974 the EMF has been a member, the first European union organisation, of the ETUC and works particularly closely with the ETUC secretariat and connected establishments.

Following a decision of the EMF executive committee, the EMF’s old files (together with a small amount of material dating back to the time of the Metal Committee) are sent in regular instalments to the AdsD since 1994.

The material has been basically sorted, and the early consignments are covered by a brief inventory. The material delivered consists mainly of reports on the organisation’s activities, the EMF general assembly and the executive committee (from 1974), the collective bargaining committee, including the collective bargaining policy committee (from 1968), correspondence (from 1974), working groups and conferences (from 1965) as well as press releases, bulletins and circulars (from 1969 or 1973).

The material takes up 89.75 linear metres; the period of time covered is from 1962 to 1999.

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**European Transport Workers’ Federation (ETF)**

Mike Zuchet

On 14 June 1999 the member unions of the Federation of Transport Workers’ Unions in the European Union (FST) and the European member associations of the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) decided to set up a new organisation: the European Transport Workers’ Federation (ETF). As a European union association the ETF represented the interests of workers in the transport, fishing and tourism sectors. The main focus of the association’s interest is developments in social justice. In addition to this, the ETF coordinates the activities of the national unions in promoting their interests within the framework of the European Union, particularly in questions concerning social policy, workers’ health and workers’ occupational safety. The union is a recognised social partner in the European social dialogue and represents the interests of the transport workers on a Europe wide basis at the different instances of the European Union.

The institutions of the ETF comprise the Congress, the Executive Committee – the highest body between Congresses – and the Management Committee. Other bodies are the sections dealing with railways, road transport, inland shipping, ports, sailors, fishing, civil aviation and tourism.

The general secretariat of the ETF is situated in Brussels. The unions currently have more than three million members from 180 unions in 40 countries extending way beyond the borders of the European Union.

On 17 December 1999 the ETF decided to transfer its old material (including the archives of its predecessor organisations) to the AdsD.

Due to the ETF’s recent foundation, the archives are relatively scanty. They comprise mainly material covering different branches: the railways, road transport, inland shipping, ports, sailors, fishing, civil aviation, tourism. The emphasis is on correspondence with the European Commission and different bodies and institutions within the European Union concerning unions and European policy questions. In addition there is extensive correspondence between the ETF and the International Transport Workers’ Federation, which is well covered for
the period from 1999 to 2001. The minutes of the ETF Congresses and Executive Committee meetings have not been supplied, nor have those of the predecessor organisations. The vast majority of the ETF material consists of the records of the predecessor organisations. And of this the major part consists of correspondence between the individual sections and the relevant bodies within the European Union, such as the union transport committee in the European Community, which have been supplied on a major scale. In addition there is the correspondence between the individual sections of the predecessor organisations with the relevant national member unions.

The material has been roughly sorted.

The material takes up 68.00 linear metres; the period of time covered is from 1961 to 2001.
In 1997 the former European Union Committee for Textiles, Clothing and Leather was renamed the European Trade Union Federation for Textiles, Clothing and Leather. It is a member organisation of the ETUC and represents workers’ interests at the European Parliament and in the Commission. It has its own decision-making institutions and organises conferences and events at European level.

When the AdsD secured the archive material of the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers’ Federation (ITGLWF) for research purposes, it proved possible to save from destruction a small part of the archive material of its regional European organisation, covering the period from 1962 to 1993, and transfer it to the AdsD. This remaining material comprises statutes, presidium meetings and circulars to members of the presidium; circulars and reports to member and other organisations; papers concerning the European Union and the Commission, as well as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), documents on the Trade Union Congress “multi fibre agreement” and on bilateral agreements under the World Textile Agreement, plus material from different working groups.

The material takes up 0.65 linear metres; the period of time covered is from 1962 to 1993.
The history of the International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees (FIET) dates back, like that of many other international unions, to its European foundation. Union members from Belgium, England, France, the Netherlands and Italy attended the first international congress in September 1900. Initially, there had to be a degree of expansion at international level before a renewed regionalisation process could begin. And a first step in this direction was taken in 1968 with the founding of the regional organisation, IRO-FIET in America. The FIET World Congress, held in Dublin in 1970, discussed regionalisation with a view to setting up three regional organisations, intending to cover North and South America, Europe and Africa, and Asia.

A Single Market committee had already been established for the European sphere, which included union representatives from the EC member states. The first regional conference, held in Copenhagen in 1972, was the founding conference of the European Regional Organisation EURO-FIET. A Brussels office was set up to facilitate direct contacts with EU authorities. Later, after the ETUC had successfully promoted the ideological opening of the European unions, the EURO-FIET recorded a considerable increase in the number of its members. In 1994 EURO-FIET grouped member unions from 12 European states.

The AdsD has a small quantity of EURO-FIET archive material, taken over by members of the archive staff in August 2000. The majority of this is correspondence from the years between 1991 and 1994, together with a few publications. The material takes up 1.00 linear metres; the period of time covered is from 1991 to 1998.
Profile of the Library of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Bibliothek der
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
(Library of the
Friedrich Ebert Foundation)
Godesberger Allee 149
D-53175 Bonn

Function:
Scientific specialist library open to the public

Postal Address:
Bibliothek
der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
D-53170 Bonn

Phone: ++49(0)228-883-426 (Information Desk)
Fax: ++49(0)228-883-626

Internet Address: http://library.fes.de/
E-Mail: fachauskunft@fes.de

User Service:
Reference library, national and international inter-library loan,
document delivery service, online offers

Opening times:
Monday through Thursday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Institution code: <Bo 133>

The Library of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung was founded in June 1969 together with the Archive of Social Democracy and is today one of the worldwide largest scientific specialist libraries with a focus on collection in the field of history of the labour movement, social and contemporary history:

- Past and presence of the German and international labour movement,
- German and international social and contemporary history,
- Current publications by political parties and trade unions in Germany and selected countries.

The Library of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung is the largest trade union library in Germany and one of the largest on a global scale with the complete stocks of the library of the Federal Board of the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB, German Trade Union Federation) and of many of its single-industry unions as well as of a number of international trade union organisations.

The library is one of the few scientific specialist libraries collecting material on the history of the labour movement, social history, on trade unions and political parties (“Grey Literature”) also in selected countries of Western Europe, North America, and the Third World as well as of international trade union organisations (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Trade Secretariats) and of the Socialist International (SI).

At the time of writing (2003) the library contains more than 650,000 volumes (books, brochures, periodicals), more than 60,000 items in micro-format (films, fiches). This increases by approximately 12,000 items per year. 2,000
newspapers, magazines and other periodicals are kept on a regular basis, more than 1,000 publications (both historical and current) are kept on microfilm.

At a national level, the Library cooperates among others with the GBV (Gemeinsamer Bibliotheksverbund der Länder Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Niedersachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thüringen) [Common Library Network for the Länder Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Lower Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia], the HBZ (Hochschulbibliothekszentrum des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen) [University Library Centre of the Land North Rhine-Westphalia], the Kooperativer Bibliotheksverbund Berlin-Brandenburg [Cooperative Library Association of Berlin-Brandenburg] (KOBV),WEBIS (WWW-Bibliotheksinformationssystem zur überregionalen Literaturversorgung in Deutschland) [WWW Library Information System on supra-regional supply with literature in Germany] and the ZDB (Zeitschriftendatenbank) [Serials data base] as well as on international level mainly with IALHI (International Association of Labour History Institutions), which was founded in London, in 1970 with the help of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and which comprises approx. 90 partner institutes, as well as within the framework of the „European Network of Labour Historians“ founded in 1997.

The Library of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung is recognised and supported as scientific specialist library by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft [German Research Society].
In his brief but pithy introductory article, Willy Buschak has narrated how the proclaimed deregulation campaign on the European Single Market in the mid-1980’s did not just give the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) a real fright, it also accelerated both the work of and cooperation between the trade unions at European level.

Let us just assume a trade union secretary in Warsaw or a journalist in Frankfurt wants to obtain the most extensive information available as quickly as possible on the state of trade union positions in Europe on deregulation and privatisation strategies in EU member countries. How should they proceed? They can spend a considerable amount of time doing their research by mail or on the telephone. And they could certainly link up to various sources by using search engines on the internet.

But a quicker and simpler way is through direct access to the online catalogue of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (see the Library profile) and its large quantity of material from European and international trade union organisations, as well as from trade unions in a large number of European countries – which would also cover the topic of deregulation and privatisation strategies.

The catalogue makes it possible to carry out research using the publications of the unions (“Grey Literature”) as well as through specialised secondary sources. In addition to this the user will find the complete text of publications in the Foundation’s digital library, an online edition of the programmes of European trade unions as well as a collection of links, which will facilitate access to the trade union organisations.

Moreover from the beginning of 2003 the “FES net source: history and politics” has provided a new theme module on the European
trade union organisations – a selection of information particularly for trade union training in Europe.

Provision of literature: importance for research, media and politics

The supply of literary material at national (and European) level which centres on social and contemporary history, as well as the history of the German and international labour movement, forms the core business of the Library of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. The availability of the new media has led to the development of a multi-functional information centre, which is available for public use by those interested.

The Library is recognised by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft [German Research Society] as a scientific specialist library. Since 1976 it has been involved in the acquisition and indexing of non-conventional literature from parties and trade unions in different European countries and North America, so that the Library has been able to build a comprehensive stock of publications, particularly about trade unions from European countries, which is virtually unmatched in Europe.

And the facilities of the Library of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung exceed those of the other scientific specialist libraries: the stock, and its expansion, are greatly assisted by the close cooperation with both the archive and other departments within the Foundation as well as with the trade unions at national, European and international level.

Both this and the fact that the Library belongs to national and international Library networks increase the material available to the public as well as extending the availability of the unions’ publications. The close cooperation with the unions at national, European and international level on the one hand, and the good contacts and working relationships with important sectors of the “world of research” on the other, make it possible for the Library of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung to exercise an important link function. In this context it is not just a question of administering the publications in an orderly manner, but of developing and making available socially and politically relevant supplies of information.

In the EU countries there are virtually no social organisations other than the trade unions, which have such extensive contacts with a wide range of people, with men and women workers, and which at the same time work so decisively for European unity. They provide the safeguards against any relapse into renewed nationalist or ethnically stamped restrictions. Trade unions will gain increasing political authority through this and through the political and social debate within the European Union. Set against a background of feelings of uncertainty and lack of political direction, which are part and parcel of the enlargement of the European Union, the union contributions are characterised in particular by their confidence-building as opposed to any anxiety creating tone.

Unions, politicians, social scientists and journalists from Central and Eastern Europe in particular will pay even more attention in future to the publications of the European trade union organisations and to the state of the transnational trade union relationships in Europe. And for them, too, the Foundation’s Library is a valuable information source.

The Library stock does not just provide important historical background for a greater understanding of the current discussions on the future development of the European Union. But the continually increasing collection of publications on a broad spectrum of topics politically relevant to the trade unions also provides vital source material when dealing with economic, industrial-social or political topics. Historians and social scientists, covering issues dealing with trade union policy themes, as well as the members of the public interested in trade union politics, will find a key source of information in the Library of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.
About the inventory

It was possible to greatly expand the collection of publications from European trade union organisations by taking over complete library stocks from International Trade Secretariats as well as the library material from German trade unions, in particular the large German Trade Union Federation library, as well as through the active collecting programme carried out by the Library in connection with the supply of current publications from the European trade union organisations.

The Library’s efforts are not just restricted to obtaining missing material. Acquisition trips are made and the Library works in conjunction with the union organisations to constantly increase the stock, by continually collecting current publications (“Grey Literature”). These are augmented systematically by obtaining the relevant specialised papers.

This description of the inventory can only provide a thumbnail sketch of the extent, range and types of publications, languages and special characteristics of individual items. We would like to provide the readers with an impression of the rich variety and the importance of the material – which may stimulate them to further research activities in our OPAC (online catalogue) and to making use of the online services we offer.

The Library concentrates on its function as an information service provider in what is increasingly a social environment characterised by information and knowledge. It obtains, classifies and makes available these materials from the European trade union organisations – including using the new media – for a worldwide public interested in trade union affairs.

The Library is developing into a central, multi media source of information about and for the international labour movement.

The new media formats provide new possibilities for storing and using information. Besides the comprehensive filming and microfilming techniques used extensively in the past, trade union publications are now often recorded on CD ROM or – as for example in the case of press services – stored as databases online.

At present a database is being prepared, which will show the publications of the current international trade union organisations and their predecessors.
More than 1300 titles in the Library of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung cover the inventory of the European Trade Union Confederation/ETUC, its institutions and the European Industry Federations, as well as their predecessor organisations.

In order to avoid frequent repetition, it should be mentioned here that whenever possible the publications are collected in German and English, often also in French, Spanish or other European languages. To make things easier to understand the descriptions of the individual items include brief links to the current organisations and their predecessor organisations.

Here we use the English names of the organisations and include them as far as we had been able to gather them from the sources (additional translations of names of organisations or titles of publications will be written between square brackets).

The Library of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung began obtaining digital publications from the European trade union organisations a long time ago. But for copyright reasons the full text is usually only available locally.

Most of the inventory of the European trade union organisations, the library stocks of the German Trade Union Federation (DGB) and its member unions were taken over by the Library. And in 1998/99 it began an active and comprehensive collection policy aimed at filling the gaps, but there are gaps in both the lists of periodicals and one-off publications, which are not covered in detail in the texts.
European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

In 1973, 17 west European member unions from 15 countries belonging to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions/ICFTU joined together to form the European Trade Union Confederation/ETUC. Currently the ETUC has 76 member unions from 35 countries in Western, Central and Eastern Europe, together with 11 European industrial federations, and represents some 60 million union members. The European Regional Organisation of the ICFTU/ERO-ICFTU was formed as early as 1950 with 20 union umbrella organisations from 18 west European countries. In 1958 (after the establishment of the European Economic Community/EEC 1957) came the foundation of the European Trade Union Secretariat, which was renamed the European Confederation of Free Trade Unions/ECFTU in 1969 and initially included only member associations from the 6 EEC countries (the ERO-ICFTU was dissolved in 1969).

The material of the European Trade Union Confederation/ETUC covers the reports of activities from 1973 to the present day, Congress and Financial reports together with press reports or e.g. "Forum facts: ETUC newsletter; Forum for cooperation and integration".

The statutes are available from the foundation date in 1973 up to 1999. Many publications are available from technical conferences: "In the public interest: public services for the people of Europe" (Brüssel, 1998), "Industrial relations in the information society": Brussels, 2 February 1998, workshop documentation" (1998) or "A time for working, a time for living" (Düsseldorf/Neuss, 1994).


Additional programme statements are to be found in works including: “Unsere Prioritäten: Resolutionen des EGB 1998”, 1998 [Our priori-

There are also several publications about the ETUC, inc. among others “Der Europäische Gewerkschaftsbund (EGB): Geschichte, Struktur, Politik/Europäisches Gewerkschaftsinstitut (EGI)” (pub. by Günter Köpke, 1991) [The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC): history, structure, politics/European Trade Union Institute]; “European Trade Union Confederation: profile of the ETUC”, (1987); Silvia Dürmeier, Alfons Grundheber-Pilgram “Der Europäische Gewerkschaftsbund (EGB) und die Europäisierung der industriellen Beziehungen”, (1998) [The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the europeanisation of industrial relations]; Bouwe Hijma “Inventory of the archives of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and its predecessors: (1939-1950-1992” (Amsterdam, 1996); Ulrich Mückenberger and others. (Pub.) “Die Modernisierung der Gewerkschaften in Europa” (1996) [The Modernisation of Trade Unions in Europe].


The European Trade Union Institute/ETUI was founded in 1978 on the initiative of the ETUC to form a bridge between the trade union movement and the world of research in Europe. The work focuses on the areas of the Europeanisation of conditions of work, the labour market, employment and social policy as well as economic and industrial policies.

A large quantity of publications was taken over or obtained from the European Trade Union Institute/ETUI, they range from "European Trade Union Confederation: The institutes of the ETUC: [ETUI, research; ETUCO/AFETT, education and training; TUTB, health and safety]" (Brussels, 1999); press releases and reports of activities (1.1978 until the present day) through the periodical "Transfer: European review of labour and research; quarterly of the European Trade Union Institute" (1.1995 until the present) through other subjects relevant to the Institute’s work.

On the topic of unions, works which should be mentioned include Jeremy Waddington “Trade unions in Europe: facing challenges and searching for solutions”, 2000; Heikki Aintila “Trade union membership in western Europe”, 1993 or the series of individual descriptions of the unions in European countries such as those from John Evans, David Foden “The trade union movement in Great Britain”, 1986 or Martin Hutsebaut “The trade union movement in the Netherlands”, 1992.

Additional titles are “Strike and structural change: the future of the trade unions’ mobilisation capacity in Europe”, prepared for a meeting by Klaus Pumberger (1992); Giuseppe Fajertag (pub.) “Social pacts in Europe” (1997); David Foden (pub.) “Globalisation and the social contract” (2001) or “European works councils and the europeanisation of industrial relations: report of a conference organised by the European Trade Union Confederation and the European Trade Union Institute, Brussels, October 2-4, 1996” (Brussels, 1997).

Naturally considerable space is devoted to Europe and the European Union, mention can be made for example of “Arbeitsbedingungen in den Ländern des europäischen Wirtschaftsraumes, Sozialvergleich in der Europäischen Union”, 1997 [Working conditions in the countries of the European Economic Area, a social comparison in the European Union]; “Die soziale Architektur Europas auf dem Prüfstand: gewerkschaftliche Ideen zum europäischen Entwicklungsmodell” [Europe’s social architecture tested: union ideas on the European model of development]/working documents, Brussels, 1993; Brian Bercusson (pub.) “A manifesto for social Europe” (1996).
The European Trade Union College/ETUCO was founded in 1990 as a training institution for the ETUC, to more actively promote European topics and questions within the sphere of trade union training.

(In 1995 the ETUC decided to merge the Association for European Training of Workers on the Impact of New Technology; Association pour la formation européenne des travailleurs aux technologies/AFETT, founded in 1986, with the ETUCO.)

Besides publications such as the “European Trade Union College (ETUCO): work programme 1994-2000” (held as online publication) or Jeff Bridgford (pub.) “Trade union education in Europe” (2000), emphasis is placed on publications available on such key programme topics as language courses, trade union organisations and the representation of interests as well as European political issues.

As examples from a long list of titles the following should also be mentioned: Jacky Barry “Language tutors’ manual: for tutors involved in language training for European trade unionists/ETUCO” (1995); “Making it work: effective language training strategies for European trade unionists; proceedings of ETUCO seminar, University of Northumbria, Newcastle 1994” (Brussels, 1995), tuition material for language courses, German or English for trade unionists for example, or also “The European works council directive: explanatory guide to the EU directive of 22 September 1994”, (1995). Renate Langewiesche, Agnes Kende, Jacky Barry “Europe United! Trade unions and the enlargement of the European Union” (2001) and the German edition Renate Langewiesche, Agnes Kende, Jacky Barry “Europa gemeinsam!: Gewerkschaften und die Erweiterung der Europäischen Union”, (Further education material, Brussels, 2001).
The European Trade Union Technical Bureau for Health and Safety (TUTB) was founded on the initiative of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) in 1989 to promote a high degree of health protection and a high level of work safety both in Europe and at the workplace.

So far the material from the European Trade Union Technical Bureau for Health and Safety (TUTB) has been somewhat sparsely represented: "European Trade Union Technical Bureau for Health and Safety: TUTB newsletter: newsletter of the European Trade Union Technical Bureau for Health and Safety" (from 2.1996); Ringelberg, J. A., P. Voskamp "Integrating ergonomic principles into C-standards for machinery design: TUTB proposals for guidelines" (1996) or "Verbesserung von Gesundheitsschutz und Sicherheit in der Europäischen Gemeinschaft: grundlegende Informationen für Gewerkschaften", 1991 [Improving health and safety protection in the European Community: basic information for unions].

The Council of European professional and managerial staff (EUROCADRES) was founded in 1993 at the instigation of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) in order to improve the representation of leading employees in the ETUC affiliates at European level.

European Industry Federations

The European Industry Federations (of which there are currently 11) have been full members of the ETUC since 1991, until 1991 they had an advisory role on the ETUC.

European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW)

The European Federation of Building and Woodworkers/EFBWW came into existence in 1983 with the renaming of the Europäische Föderation der Bau- und Holzarbeiter in der Gemeinschaft/EFBH [European Federation of Building and Woodworkers in the Community] which was founded in 1974, and had its roots in the Gemeinschaftlichen Europäischen Ausschuss für die Bau- und Holzsektoren [Joint European Committee for the Building and Woodworking Sector] which was set up in 1958.

(The supplementary regional organisation, the Nordic Federation of Building and Woodworkers is a special case among the European industrial federations. It was founded in 1952 and today includes 23 member unions from the northern European countries.)

Publications of the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers/EFBWW which should be mentioned include “Euro-Betriebsräte Austellung – Exposition of European works councils/EFBH” (Frankfurt 2001); Jan Cremers “The free movement of workers in Europe: outstanding problems” (1999); “Eurosite: Informations- und Konsultationsverfahren auf großen europäischen Baustellen; ein Leitfaden für gute Praktiken” (1999); “Eurosite: information and consultation procedures on large European construction sites; a guide book of good practice” (1999) or “Das ist die EFBH: Ursprung, Geschichte, Wirkung” (1997) [This is the EFBW: origin, history impact].
European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT)

The European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions/EFFAT was formed in 2000 through the merger of the European Federation of Food, Catering and Allied Workers’ Unions /ECF-IUF, which was itself established in 1981 with the merger of the Europäischer Gewerkschaftsausschuss Nahrung-Genuss-Gaststätten/EG NGG [European Trade Union Committee Food and Catering] (founded in 1959) and the European regional organisation of the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations/Euro-IUF (founded in 1975) as well as the European Federation of Agricultural Workers’ Unions/EFA founded in 1958.

The European Landworkers’ Federation/ELF was dissolved in 1971 and its mandate was taken over by the International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers/IFPLAW. The material is presented in the context of the merger of the IFPLAW and the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations/IFU.

As far as the new regional organisation European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions/EFFAT is concerned, mention should be made of the “Newsletter” (both the German and English editions) or the “Report Mittel- und Osteuropa: Nachrichten der Internationalen Union der Lebensmittel-, Landwirtschafts-, Hotels, Restaurant-, Café- und Genussmittelarbeiter-Gewerkschaften und deren Europäischen regionalen Organisation EAL-IUL in Mittel und Osteuropa” [report Central and Eastern Europe: news of the International Federation of Food, Agriculture, Hotels and Catering Unions and their European regional organisations in Central and Eastern Europe] and from the Europäischer Gewerkschaftsausschuss Nahrung-Genuss-Gaststätten/EG NGG [European Trade Union Committee Food and Catering] the “Euro-Bulletin” (European committee of the Food and Catering Unions together with the European Federation of Agricultural Workers’ Unions/EFA, Brussels (1.1974-31.1990) and “International Confectionery Industry Workers’ Meeting: Internationale Konferenz der Arbeitnehmer in der Süßwarenindustrie: Unterlagen d. Konferenz, Protokoll/Internationale Union d. Lebens- u. Genußmittelarbeiter-Gewerkschaften; European Committee of Food, Catering and Allied Workers’ Unions within the IUF (ECF-IUF)” (1981).

European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)

The European Federation of Journalists/EFJ was founded in 1989 (or, if you include predecessor organisations in 1985). It has member unions in 31 countries and is thus the largest journalists’ organisation in Europe.

Examples of the European Federation of Journalists/EFJ publications which should be mentioned: “Euronews” (both printed and online versions, 1995 and 1998 respectively until the present day); “Freelance newsletter: Bulletin of the European Federation of Journalists, Freelance Expert Group” (1.1998 until the present); activity reports as well as “Reuters Holding PLC: training for European works council: seminar report; Brussels January 16-17, 1996”, “The information society and authors’ rights of media employees and freelances” (1996) or “Moral rights in the information society: a need for harmonisation in the EU, seminar report, Rome, October 9-10, 1998”.

European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers’ Federation (EMCEF)

The European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers’ Federation/EMCEF was founded in 1996 emerging from the Europäische Föderation der Chemiegewerkschaften/ EFCG [European Federation of Chemical and General Workers’ Unions] founded in 1988, and its predecessor, founded in 1958, the Europäischer Koordinierungsausschuss der Internationalen Föderation von Industriegewerkschaften und Fabrikarbeiterverbänden [European coordinating committee of the International federation of industrial unions and factory workers’ federations], as well as the Miners’ European Federation/MEF founded in 1991.

The European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers’ Federation/EMCEF is represented by material including Congress reports and protocols (2000-2002).
European Metalworkers’ Federation (EMF)

The European Metalworkers’ Federation/EMF was established in 1995 and dates back to the European Metalworkers’ Federation in the Community/EMF founded 1971 and to the Europäischer Ausschuss der Metallgewerkschaften/Metallausschuss [European Committee of Metalworking Unions/Metal Committee] formed in 1963.

The EMF includes 60 member unions from 26 European countries.


Publications from the European Metalworkers’ Federation in the Community/EMF which could be mentioned: “European Metalworkers’ Federation in the Community: Europäischer Metallgewerkschaftsbund in der Gemeinschaft” (1978-85); Secretariat reports (1991-1998) or “Ergebnisse der Untersuchung des E.M.B. über Löhne, die Arbeitszeit und die Zusatzsysteme zur sozialen Sicherheit in einigen europäischen Werften: September 1979” [“Results of a EMF survey concerning wages, working hours and social security supplements in some European shipyards”].
The European Federation of Public Service Unions/EPSU was founded in 1978 and groups 180 member unions in more than 30 European countries. A predecessor organisation was set up in 1974, the European Public Service Committee/EPSC.

The European Federation of Public Service Unions/EPSU is well represented with a large number of publications, including reports of activities, statutes, as well as titles relating to technical or representative topics such as e.g “Economic and monetary union and its consequences for public services: the EPSU position” (1998); “Basic points of the EPSU for an EU energy Policy” (2000); “The municipal waste management industry in Europe, issues, trends and multinationals” (1997); “Privatisation in health services in Western Europe: an interim research report by the Public Sector Privatisation Research Unit, UK” (1996) or on Jane Pillinger’s trade union education work, “Promoting quality public services for Europe’s citizens: education modules” (2000).
European Transport Workers’ Federation (ETF)

The European Transport Workers’ Federation/ETF founded in 1999 combines the member organisations of the now dissolved Federation of Transport Workers’ Unions in the European Union/FST founded in 1958 with the European member unions of the International Transport Workers’ Federation/ITF.

The only printed material available from the European Transport Workers’ Federation/ETF is the founding statutes. Since the ETF only publishes online, the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation will in future obtain and store these online publications. Currently they are only available on a local basis.

European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE)

The European Trade Union Committee for Education/ETUCE was founded in 1975.

European Trade Union Federation for Textiles Clothing and Leather (ETUF-TCL)


UNI-Europa / Union Network International

UNI-Europa came into existence in the year 2000 as part of the merger of the international Trade Secretariats of private-sector employees, in the post and communications branch, the graphic branch and the branch covering the arts, media and entertainment as a European regional organisation, whose member unions represent 7 million union members in Europe.

The main predecessor organisations were the International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees/European Regional Organisation/ EURO-FIET founded in 1972, together with the different brauch groups, the Europäischer Ausschuss der Kommunikations-Internationale/KI [European Committee of the Communications International/CI], which dates back to the Europäischer Ausschuss der Internationale des Personals der Post-, Telegraphen- und Telefonbetriebe/IPTT [European Committee of the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone International/PTTI] founded in 1965, the European Graphical Federation/EGF founded in 1985, the European regional organisation of the Media and Entertainment International/MEI, which traced itself back to the Europäischer Gewerkschaftsausschuss Kunst und Unterhaltung/EGAKU [European Trade Union Committee Art and Entertainment] founded in 1973.

Besides the founding statutes (2000) the main focus of the UNI-Europa publications is on technical subjects covering the different areas with which it is involved, almost all of them in both German and English – some examples: Andrew Bibby “Organising in financial call centres” (Geneva, 2000, German edition entitled: “Organisierung in Finanz-Call Centern”); Lionel Fulton, ”Ausweitung der europäischen Betriebsrätê im graphischen Sektor auf Mittel- und Osteuropa: eine einführende Studie” [Extending European Works Councils in the graphics sector

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There is a very large quantity of material from the International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees/European Regional Organisation/EURO-FIET in the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation Library, of which only a few publications will be mentioned to give some indication of the range. In addition to a large number of Congress reports, progress reports and reports of technical group conferences, the main topics covered are those dealing with the specific relevant subjects. Mention should be made of “Collective bargaining trends in European banking 1987-1988” (1989, German edition entitled: “Tarifverhandlungstendenzen im europäischen Bankensektor 1987-1988”); “Equality of opportunity in insurance” (1991, German edition entitled: “Chancengleichheit im Versicherungswesen”); “The need for a social clause in the second EEC bank directive: submission by EURO-FIET to Jacques Delors” (1989, German edition entitled: “Die Notwendigkeit einer Sozialklausel in der 2. EG-Bankenrichtlinie”).


The European Graphical Federation/EGF is represented with extensive material. Besides reports of activities and Congress reports as well as descriptions of publishing houses such as the “Axel Springer Verlag AG: Dokumentation” (produced by FAST, Forschungsgemeinschaft für Außenwirtschaft, Struktur- und Technologiepolitik e.V., Berlin, 1993) or Raffele Bruni “Die Gruppe Fininvest-Mondadori” (1992) there are publications on different topics such as “Auf dem Weg zu europäischen Betriebsräten: die europäische Koordinierung der

The purpose of this publication is to describe the stocks of publications on the European trade union organisations held by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. Readers interested in trade union matters and European politics would certainly be interested to know that the inventory also includes a very large number of publications from and about the trades unions in different European countries, with the emphasis on Western and Southern Europe. Together with the publications of the European trade union organisations, this “Europe” stock section in the Library of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung provides an extremely valuable source of information both for specialists and the interested public.

In this context one should also mention the large number of publications of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung which are available in full in the Foundation’s digital library.

A selection of titles should be mentioned to provide an illustration of both the size and the extent of the inventory.

On the subject of the deregulation and privatisation strategies in EU countries referred to earlier, one should cite the following titles among others:

- Alan Tuffin “Privatisation of British Telecom: A response from the Union of Communication Workers to the Government’s white paper “the future of telecommunications in Britain”” published by the Union of Communication Workers (London, 1982); “Privatisation by order: The government plan for local services”, published by the Trades Union Congress/TUC (London, 1985);
- Wilgart Schuchardt “European long-distance road haulage policy: between deregulation and ecological requirements”, published by the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (Bonn 1993); “Privatisation in visegrád countries: old principles and new methods; proceedings of the international conference” published by the Miklós Szanyi, Institute for World Economics (Budapest, ca. 1993);
- Frank Dobson “Deregulating disaster: the Tory threat to airport security and passenger safety; a report” (Labour Party, London 1993);
- Serge Gaillard “Deregulierung ist keine Antwort auf Arbeitslosigkeit: 10 Thesen zur aktuellen Arbeitsmarktlage”, published by the Schweizerischer Gewerkschaftsbund/SGB (Bern, 1994);
The national unions are also attaching greater importance to the European works councils. Dirk Buda "Auf dem Weg zum europäischen Betriebsrat", published by the Friedrich-Ebert-Fondation (Bonn, 1991); "Betriebsräte in Europa: eine Handlungshilfe", published by the Industriegewerkschaft Metall, Edit.: Michael Blank-Abel (Frankfurt am Main, 1992); Paz Campos Ponce "De Europese ondernemingsraad: een korte toelichting op de richtlijn voor Europese ondernemingsraden" published by the Industriebund FNV/Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging (Amsterdam, 1996); Jutta Esser "European works councils and their significance for changing industrial relations in Britain", published by the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (London, 1996); Wolfgang Lecher "Gewerkschaften und industrielle Beziehungen in Frankreich, Italien, Großbritannien und Deutschland: Rahmenbedingungen für die EBR" (Düsseldorf, 1997); "What will the Opt-in mean? European works councils; implications for British trade unions and companies", published by the Trades Union Congress/TUC (London, 1997); "European works councils", published by the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical UnionAEEU (Hayes, 1998); Wolfgang Lecher; Bernhard Nagel; Hans-Wolfgang Platzer "Die Konstituierung Europäischer Betriebsräte – vom Informationsforum zum Akteur? Eine vergleichende Studie von acht Konzernen in Deutschland, Frankreich, Großbritannien und Italien". (Baden-Baden, 1998).

The Development of the European Union, its predecessors and European politics have taken a permanent place for decades within the spectrum of trade union publications in Europe: Otto Brenner "Die Aufgaben der Gewerkschaftsbe-wegung in einem integrierten Europa" (Referat, Paris, 1964); "Die Gewerkschaften und die wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit Europas" (Österreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund/ÖGB, Wien, ca. 1958); "Britain and the E.E.C.: a review of the principal economic and social issues", published by the Trades Union Congress/TUC (London, ca. 1967); "Europa y los trabajadores" (Unión General de Trabajadores/UGT, Madrid,1989); "Die Charta der Grundrechte der Europäischen Union" published by the Deutsche Gewerkschaftsbund, Bundesvorstand, Abteilung Arbeitsmarktpolitik und Internationale Sozialpolitik (Berlin, 2001); Sophie G. Alf "Arbeitnehmerbeteiligung und Mitbestimmung in der BRD und in Italien = Partecipazione dei lavoratori e codecisione nelle RFT e in Italia" (Rome, 1991); "Que es el tratado de Maastricht?" (Confederación Sindical de Comisiones Obreras/CC.OO,

The non-conventional trades union publications, the “Grey Literature”, from different European countries are important not just for purposes of historical research. The continuing collection of the newer publications also makes it possible to take a look at current debates within the trade unions on trade union relevant topics in Europe today.
Appendix

Selected bibliography

Willy Buschak


List of Abbreviations

ADGB  Allgemeiner Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund
AEEU  Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union
AFETT  Association for European Training of Workers on the Impact of New Technology (Association pour la formation européenne des travailleurs aux technologies)
CCOO  Confederación Sindical de Comisiones Obreras
CEEP  Centre Européen des entreprises à participation publique et des entreprises d’intérêts économique général
CEEFA  Centre Européen d’études et de formation dans le secteur agricole
CFDT  Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail
CGIL  Confederazione Generale Italiana di Lavoro
CGSLB  Confédération Générale des Syndicats Libéraux de la Belgique
CGT  Confédération Générale du Travail
CGT-FO  Confédération Générale du Travail – Force Ouvrière
CGT-L  Confédération Générale du Travail – Luxembourg
CI  Communications International
CISL  Confederazione Italiana Sindacati Lavoratori
CMB  Centrale des Métallurgistes de Belgique
COPA  Comité Professionnel Agricole
DAG  Deutsche Angestellten-Gewerkschaft
DGB  Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund
DPG  Deutsche Postgewerkschaft
EAEA  European Arts and Entertainment Alliance
EC  European Community
ECF-IUF  European Federation of Food, Catering and Allied Workers’ Unions within the IUF
ECFTU  European Confederation of Free Trade Unions
ECSC  European Coal and Steel Community
EEA  European Entertainment Alliance
EEC  European Economic Community
EFA  European Federation of Agricultural Workers’ Unions
EFBH  Europäische Föderation der Bau- und Holzarbeiter
EFBHIG  Europäische Föderation der Bau- und Holzarbeiter in der Gemeinschaft
EFBWV  European Federation of Building and Woodworkers
EFC  Europäischen Föderation der Chemiegewerkschaften
EFCGU  European Federation of Chemical and General Workers’ Unions
EFFAT  European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions
EFJ European Federation of Journalists
EFREP European Federation of Retired and Elderly Persons
EFTA European Free Trade Area
EGAKU Europäischer Gewerkschaftsausschuss Kunst und Unterhaltung
EGF European Graphical Federation
ELF European Landworkers’ Federation
EMCEF European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers’ Federation
EMF European Metalworkers’ Federation
EPSC European Public Service Committee
EPSU European Federation of Public Service Unions
ERÖ-ICFTU European Regional Organisation – International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
ESC Economic and Social Committee
ETF European Transport Workers’ Federation
ETUC European Trade Union Confederation
ETUCE European Trade Union Committee for Education
ETUCF European Trade Union Committee of Food and Allied Workers in the Community
ETUCO European Trade Union College
ETUF-TCL European Trade Union Federation for Textiles, Clothing and Leather
ETUI European Trade Union Institute
ETUS European Trade Union Secretariat
EU European Union
EURATOM Europäische Atomgemeinschaft
EUROCADRES Council of European professional and managerial staff
EURO-FIET International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees – European Regional Organisation (Organisation régionale européenne – Fédération Internationale des Employés, Techniciens et Cadres)
EURO-IUF European Regional Organisation – International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers’ Associations
EURO-MEI European Regional Organisation – Media and Entertainment International
EVC Eenheids Vak Centrale
EWC European Works Council

FGM-CFDT Fédération Générale de la Métallurgie – CFDT
FGTB Fédération Générale du Travail de la Belgique
FIA International Federation of Actors (Fédération Internationale des Acteurs)
FIET International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees (Fédération Internationale des Employés, Techniciens et Cadres)
FILTEA Federazione Italiano Lavoratori Tessili e Abbigliamento
FIM International Federation of Musicians (Fédération Internationale des Musiciens)
FIM-CISL Federazione Italiana Metalmecanici – CISL
FOM  Fédération Confédérée Force Ouvrière de la Métallurgie
FNV  Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging
FST  Federation of Transport Workers’ Unions in the European Union (Fédération des Syndicats des Transports dans l’Union Européenne)

GATT  General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GVEG  Gewerkschaftlicher Verkehrsausschuss in der Europäischen Gemeinschaft

HBV  Gewerkschaft Handel, Banken und Versicherungen

IALHI  International Association of Labour History Institutions
ICA  International Council on Archives
ICEM  International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers’ Unions
ICFTU  International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
IFBWW  International Federation of Building and Woodworkers
IFCTU  International Federation of Christian Trade Unions
IFIF  International Federation of Industrial Organisations and General Workers’ Unions (Internationale Föderation von Industriegewerkschaften und Fabrikarbeiterverbänden)
IFPAAW  International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers
IFTU  International Federation of Trade Unions
IG BAU  Industriegewerkschaft Bauen, Agrar, Umwelt
IG CPK  Industriegewerkschaft Chemie, Papier, Keramik
IGM  Industriegewerkschaft Metall
ILF  International Landworkers’ Federation
IMF  International Metalworkers’ Federation
IRO-FIET  Interamerican Regional Organisation – FIET
ITF  International Transport Workers’ Federation
ITGLWF  International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers’ Federation
ITH  International Conference of Labour and Social History
ITS  International Trade Secretariat
ITUC  Interregional Trade Union Council
IUF  International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers’ Associations

LAV  Letzeburger Arbechter Verband

MEF  Miners’ European Federation
MEI  Media and Entertainment International
Metaal-NVV  Metaalbedrijfsbond NVV
MIF  Miners’ International Federation

NFBWW  Nordic Federation of Building and Woodworkers
NGG  Gewerkschaft Nahrung-Genuss-Gaststätten
NVV  Nederlandse Verbond van Vakverenigingen
ÖGB  Österreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund
OPZZ  Ogólnopolskie Porozomienic Związków Zawadowych/All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions

PTTI  Postal, Telegraph and Telephon International
PWIF  Plantation Workers International Federation

SE  European Company (Societas Europaea)
SGB  Schweizerischer Gewerkschaftsbund
SI  Socialist International

TUC  Trades Union Congress
TUTB  European Trade Union Technical Bureau for Health and Safety

UGT  Unión General de Trabajadores
UIL  Unione Italiana del Lavoro
UILM  Unione Italiana Lavoratori Metallurgici
UNI  Union Network International
UNICE  Union of Industrial and Employers Confederations of Europe
UNI-Europa  Union Network International – Europäische Regionalorganisation

WCL  World Confederation of Labour
WFTU  World Federation of Trade Unions