

[ETUC newsletter]



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Figure of the month

98,3
million euro

In 2010, total wages of CAC 40 chairmen exceeded 98.3 million euro, which was a 24% increase on 2009. The average wage per manager was about 2.46 million euro. (Source : Les Echos)

Note



12th CONGRESS
ATHENS 16-19 MAY 2011



Dear Readers,



This will be my last editorial after having been privileged to be General Secretary of the ETUC for the past 8 years. I retire at the Congress in Athens on May 19 and will return to the UK.

I leave at a time of tremendous challenges for the EU and the ETUC. Currently despite the EU/IMF bail outs, Greece in particular, Ireland and Portugal are in trouble. The austerity medicine is not working – indeed it is killing growth and jobs in those countries. Their condition is affecting confidence in the euro and there is no shortage of pundits forecasting the end of the euro.

The Schengen agreement is also under pressure as Europe starts to receive immigrants from the turmoil in North Africa. Free movement, one of the central pillars of the EU, is under threat.

And there is the rise of the Far Right in surprising places, the most recent being the True Finns who made big gains in the recent Finnish election. We are reminded that in a crisis, foreigners become a target, a scapegoat.

So I leave the ETUC with much to do, with many issues to grapple with. Joël Decaillon leaves too after a long and distinguished trade union career in France and the EU.

Despite the problems and challenges, I am confident that the new team led by Bernadette Ségol, will rise to the occasion and weld the ETUC into an even stronger and more effective organisation. I wish them well with that task.

John Monks
General Secretary

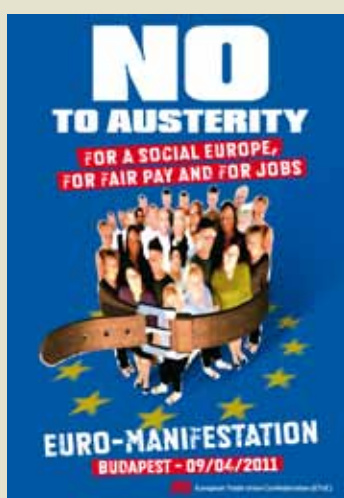




[ETUC in action]

ETUC CAMPAIGNS

Euro-demonstration in Budapest: 50,000 workers said “No” to Austerity and “Yes” to Social Progress



09/04/2011 - At the call of ETUC and its Hungarian affiliates, [50,000 workers and trade-unionists demonstrated in Budapest](#) to say “no” to austerity and demand more social Europe, fair wages and quality jobs. Coming from 42 trade union organizations covering 22 countries, they expressed their anger against deep cuts in public spending, downward pressures on wages and attacks on collective bargaining autonomy. **For the European trade union movement, alternative choices to austerity are possible and needed.** The Euro-demonstration took place on the day of the informal meeting of finance ministers organized in Budapest by the Hungarian presidency of the EU.

[Videos of the Euro-demonstration](#)
[Pictures of the Euro-demonstration](#)

MAJOR MEETINGS – CONFERENCES – PROJECTS

12th ETUC Congress Athens, 16–19 May 2011

14/04/2011 - The 12th ETUC Congress will take place in Athens on 16–19 May 2011. The event is a crucial step in the development of the European trade union movement’s strategy for more employment and quality jobs, equality and social justice, in a context of a deep financial, economic and social crisis which is far from over. In addition, **the delegates will elect a new team which will lead ETUC for the coming 4 years.** A web site dedicated to the Congress has been created: <http://www.etuc.org/congress2011> with information on the daily agenda, round tables, documents and practical details on venues and facilities.

[ETUC press release](#)
[Web site dedicated to the Congress](#)

*(see the dossier
on the following
page)*

ETUC Executive Committee

28/04/011 - The last ETUC Executive Committee before the Congress in Athens met in Brussels. ETUC Strategy and Action Plan for the forthcoming 4 years was the main issue of the debates. Resolutions on European industry policy and on strengthening worker involvement were adopted. Moreover, positions on the European Worker Participation Fund as well as on collective redress as an instrument to strengthen the enforcement of EU law were approved.



[Dossier]

12th ETUC Congress 'Mobilising for social Europe'



12th CONGRESS

ATHENS 16-19 MAY 2011

 ETUC EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) will be holding its 12th Congress in Athens from 16 to 19 May this year. With over 1,000 delegates, coming from the 83 ETUC member organisations representing 36 countries, this is the major event for the European trade union movement. The decisions taken here will have a major impact on the future of relations between the trade union movement and European policies. The point is that this congress is happening at a difficult time in the construction of Europe, with the imposition of 'European economic governance' which calls into question the social 'acquis' and the autonomy of the social partners in Europe. The congress will be discussing the trade union strategy to be pursued in a political, economic and social context that has changed massively over recent years. The delegates will also be electing a new team to lead the ETUC for the coming four years. The Athens Manifesto to be adopted at the Congress will be the roadmap for the European trade union movement.

The programme in detail

The programme for the Athens Congress is very dense. Ten themes will be discussed and adopted by the delegates. These form the pillars upon which the ETUC will build its union action until the next congress in 2015. The subjects dominating the work of the congress will be: economic governance, employ-

ment and financial regulation, the European social model for greater equality and social cohesion, fair and sustainable development, fair mobility, health and safety at work, the social dialogue at all levels, and solidarity of action for fair globalization. Round tables covering current European political affairs and trade union issues have been scheduled. The six round tables will explore the following topics: the alternatives to limit the impact of the financial crisis on workers, inequality in Europe at a time of crisis, the relationship between the dictates of the single market and workers' rights, the neighbourhood policy with the Mediterranean countries, Europe's industrial future, and the trade union movement in an age of social networks and the web 2.0.

A video summing up the activities of the ETUC during the past four years, plus a report on the labour market in Europe, will be screened. The programme also includes the award of two prizes by the European trade union movement. The 'ETUC Prize for Services of Excellence in favour of Social Europe' will be awarded to Jacques Delors, former President of the European Commission, and the Brian Bercusson Prize will go to Rebecca Zahn of the European University Institute in Florence.

The third day of work, 18 May, will see the election of the new secretariat which will run the ETUC for the next four years. The posts to be filled are the President and the General Secretary, the two Deputy General Secretary posts and the four Confederal Secretary posts.

Version 2.0 media support

The Athens Congress will have very full media support. An internet site devoted 100% to this event has been developed at the following address: <http://www.etuc.org/congress2011>.

The site, which is available in English and French, will provide all the information relating to the debates



Dossier 12th ETUC Congress (following)



underway, the programme for the congress and a press room. All the work will be accessible direct, via web TV, which will operate over the four days of

the congress and rebroadcast in several European languages. Delayed programming will likewise be available.

The social networks will also be used. On the ETUC's Twitter account, users will be brought up to date with the debates and the events underway. Similarly, they will be able to consult and download images from the ETUC's Flickr account, and watch the highlights of the congress on the ETUC's YouTube channel.

USEFUL INFORMATION AND TIPS

- Athens Congress website: <http://www.etuc.org/congress2011>
- ETUC website: <http://www.etuc.org/>
- ETUC Twitter account: <http://twitter.com/etuces>
- ETUC YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/etuces>
- ETUC Flickr account: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/etuc-ces>



[Trade Union Agenda] April – May 2011

09/04/2011	Euro-demonstration (Budapest)	More information
28/04/2011	ETUC Executive Committee (Brussels)	
04/05/2011	Meeting of the Group II 'Workers' of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
16-19/05/2011	12 th Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)	Web site dedicated to the Congress



[Focus on the EU and trade union positions]

Single Market Act: initiatives on social Europe are welcome

12/04/2011 – The European Commission set out its action plan for the internal market, known as the “Single Market Act”, with 12 proposals on boosting the single market. **ETUC has welcomed the Commission’s proposals which acknowledge that there are problems with economic freedoms taking precedence over fundamental social rights.** In this context, the Commission announced a forthcoming regulation to make all aspects of the single market respect fundamental rights. In addition, a clarification on the exercise of freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services alongside fundamental social rights, including the right to take collective action, will be presented. **Unfortunately, no progress has been reported on the revision of the Posting of Workers Directive.**

[ETUC press release](#)

The downward pressure on wages **does not stop**

08/04/2011 – At an informal meeting in Budapest on 8–9 April, the EU ministers of finance **discussed the scoreboard of indicators to be used in the new European policy process on economic governance.** ETUC is especially **concerned** about the wage indicators that are being devised, because **they encroach on the autonomy of social dialogue and of social partners’ negotiations.** According to ETUC, this approach which is totally unbalanced is always about pushing wages down, **never about condemning policies that squeeze wages to the bone.** That was the reason why ETUC held a [European Day of Action](#) on April 9 in Budapest – against austerity and unfairness and for growth and jobs, with the participation of 50,000 workers.

[ETUC press release](#)

Burma: EU should support Commission of Inquiry into **crimes against humanity**

11/04/2011 – ETUC and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) called on the European Union to **support the holding of a UN Commission of Inquiry into war crimes and crimes against humanity in Burma.** *“Europe needs to take a strong stand and show that the regime cannot continue to act with impunity”* said John Monks.

[Joint ETUC–ITUC press release](#)

Report on education: political and financial efforts must be increased

22/04/2011 – The ETUC has analyzed the progress presented by the European Commission in the “New Progress Report on Education”. For the ETUC, although progress has been made, **both political and financial efforts and coordination must be increased** to make the actual implementation of education and vocational training an effective policy to promote equality of European citizens, job creation and economic growth.

[ETUC press release](#)



[EU Agenda]

April – May 2011

04–07/04/2011	Plenary Session of the European Parliament (Strasbourg)	
07–09/04/2011	Informal meeting of economic and financial affairs ministers (Budapest)	Meeting Agenda
11–12/04/2011	Justice and Home Affairs Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
13/04/2011	General Affairs and External Relations Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
02–03/05/2011	Informal meeting of energy ministers (Budapest)	Meeting Agenda
04–05/05/2011	Plenary Session of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
09–12/05/2011	Plenary Session of the European Parliament (Strasbourg)	
13/05/2011	Foreign Affairs Council – Trade (Brussels)	Council Agenda
16/05/2011	Eurogroup meeting (Brussels)	
17/05/2011	ECOFIN Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
19/05/2011	Employment and Social Affairs Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
19–20/05/2011	Education, Youth and Culture Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda
23/05/2011	General Affairs and External Relations Council (Brussels)	
27/05/2011	Energy Council (Brussels)	
30–31/05/2011	Competitiveness Council (Brussels)	

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MOBILISING FOR SOCIAL EUROPE



12th CONGRESS

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EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC)

www.etuc.org