

[ETUC newsletter]



Contents

- 2 ETUC in action
- 3 The new team at the head of the ETUC
- 4 Trade Union Agenda
- 5 Photos of the 12th ETUC Congress
- 6 EU Agenda

Figure of the month

21% – 45%

In the last three years, the unemployment rate in Spain has increased from 8.6% to 21% of the active population. Unemployment targets in particular young people: more than 45% of people under 25 years old are unemployed.

(Source : Les Echos)

Note



12th CONGRESS

ATHENS 16-19 MAY 2011



Dear Colleagues,



It is a great honour for me to be the first woman to occupy the post of General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). I should like once again to thank everyone who helped to elect me at the Athens Congress. My election confirms a long-standing European commitment by the trade unions. So it is an honour and above all a challenge, since I am well aware that we are experiencing a critical period in the history of Europe. The scale of the task ahead is immense.

While being fully committed to the construction of the European project, I nevertheless condemn the direction currently being pursued by the European Union, specifically in terms of European economic governance. The point is that the governance is translating into serious pressure on wages, working conditions and public services and a threat to collective bargaining. Instead of governance by austerity, the ETUC advocates a governance that serves the peoples rather than the markets, a social economic governance based on solidarity. The European project is no longer regarded today as a source of social progress, and we need to ensure that no stone is left unturned in our bid to reverse this trend.

The Athens Congress approved the Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2014 and the Manifesto which will form the roadmap for the new ETUC secretariat. Our priority is to establish what type of economic governance needs to be put in place in Europe. Right now, the governance being proposed to us consists of making wages and workers the major adjustment variables in the economy. We cannot accept that the consequences of the economic crisis only affect workers. I am equally worried at the resurgence of nationalist divisions emerging along lines defined by identities.

The European trade unions are continuing their mobilisation in favour of social Europe. We have called for a European and national day of action and information on 21 June in Luxembourg. Our message to Europe's decision-makers is clear: governing Europe means reinforcing its social model, not attacking it, and that is why we are demanding a change of direction.

Bernadette Ségol
General Secretary



European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5 | B-1210 Bruxelles (Belgique)
Téléphone: +32 (0)2 224 04 11 | Fax: +32 (0)2 224 04 54
E-mail: media@etuc.org | www.etuc.org



[ETUC in action]

MAJOR MEETINGS

12th ETUC Congress – Athens, 16–19 May 2011

A new General Secretary, Bernadette Ségol leads the ETUC: European trade-unions, united, mobilizing in favour of social Europe

**MOBILISING
FOR SOCIAL EUROPE**



12th CONGRESS

ATHENS 16-19 MAY 2011

ETUC  EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

19/05/2011 – The 12th Congress of the ETUC took place in Athens from 16 to 19 of May 2011. Athens was chosen in order to express the support and the solidarity of the ETUC with Greek workers and trade-unions. Congress adopted its Strategy and Action Plan 2011 – 2014 – “[Mobilising for Social Europe](#) –” and the “[Athens Manifesto](#)” which represents the ETUC’s road map for the coming years. **Delegates elected a [new team](#) to lead the ETUC for the next four years** (See the following page). The new General Secretary, [Bernadette Ségol](#), confirmed the ETUC’s commitment to the construction of the European project, whilst being very critical about the political direction being taken by the European Union. The ETUC’s commitment to social Europe, to social dialogue and to the social partners’ autonomy in collective bargaining was reiterated. European economic governance was centre stage at the Congress. An [emergency resolution demanding that EU Finance Ministers change course](#) and expressing full solidarity with the trade-union movement in Greece and in the countries affected by austerity measures was adopted. The ETUC declared that Euro Plus Pact is totally unacceptable and that it will organize a campaign against it. More information is available on the Congress web site: www.etuc.org/congress2011.

[All the pictures of the Congress](#)
[All the videos of the Congress](#)

(A photo gallery of the Congress is expecting you at page 4)

ETUC CAMPAIGNS

Economic Governance: European trade-union action on 21 June

23/05/2011 – At the end of its 12th Congress, the ETUC send an urgent message to European decision-makers. It will organise a **trade-union action and information day on economic governance on 21 June in Luxembourg**. The ETUC condemns the type of economic governance that the European Union wants to impose. The ETUC demands a change of political direction on European economic governance.

[ETUC press release](#)



[The new team at the head of the ETUC]



Bernadette Ségol

Elected ETUC General Secretary at Congress in Athens.

Bernadette Ségol was born in 1949 in Luzech (France). She was first elected as Head of UNI Europa in 2000 and was re-elected in 2003 and again in 2007. Prior to that, she was Director of Euro-FIET (commerce, finance, information technologies and other services) in Brussels from 1985 to 2000 and Assistant to the General Secretary of the International Textile Workers' Federation from 1974 to 1985. She first became a member of ETUC's Executive Committee in 1985 where she remained until her election as General Secretary in 2011. She obtained her Masters in Philosophy from Toulouse University in 1972.



Józef Niemiec

Elected ETUC Deputy General Secretary at Congress in Athens.

Józef Niemiec was born in 1955 in Poland. He was elected Confederal Secretary of the ETUC in 2003 and was re-elected in 2007. Prior to that, he was Vice-president of the National Commission of NSZZ "Solidarność" between 1999 and 2002 and Secretary of the National Commission between 1998 and 2003. He became involved with "Solidarność" in 1980. He has a Master's degree in languages from the University of Jagellonne (1978) and graduated from Teacher Training College (Masters in 1997).



Patrick Itschert

Elected ETUC Deputy General Secretary at Congress in Athens.

Patrick Itschert was born in 1953 in Overijse, Belgium. He was General Secretary of the International

Textile Garment and Leather Workers' Federation from 2009 to 2011. Prior to that he was General Secretary of the European Trade Union Federation for Textiles, Clothing, Leather and Footwear (ETUF:TCL) and Director of the Belgian Textile and Clothing Institute (ITCB). He graduated in economics from the Université Libre de Bruxelles.



Claudia Menne

Elected ETUC Confederal Secretary at the Congress in Athens.

Claudia Menne was born in 1962 in Germany. She was in charge of DGB's department for equal opportunities and for the policy for women and the family from 2006 to 2011. In December 2009, she was elected President of ETUC's Women's Committee. She was also Vice-president of the German women lobby between 2006 and 2010. Before that, she spent 8 years in charge of the European and International department for the German Railway and Transport Workers' Union. She obtained her Master's degree in economic and social history from the University of Bochum in 1990.



Luca Visentini

Elected ETUC Confederal Secretary at the Congress in Athens.

Luca Visentini was born in 1969 in Udine, Italy. He was UIL's General Secretary for the Friuli Venezia Giulia region and General Secretary of the Confederal Chamber of Labour of the UIL in Trieste from 1996 - 2011. He represented UIL in ETUC's Executive Committee in 2010-2011. In 2007 he was elected Vice-president of the European IRTUCs (Inter-regional trade union councils). Before this he was Regional General Secretary of the UILTUCS. He studied philosophy at the University of Trieste.



[The new team at the head of the ETUC]



Veronica Anna-Maria Nilsson

Elected ETUC Confederal Secretary at the Congress in Athens.

Veronica Anna-Maria Nilsson was born in 1971 in Halmstad, Sweden. She was appointed Special Advisor to the ETUC in March 2010. Prior to that, she worked at the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU), at the Brussels office of the Swedish trade unions and at the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) in Paris. She comes from the Swedish trade union movement (TCO). She obtained her Master of Science with specialization in political economics from Stockholm University in 1994.

She worked as an advisor to the European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF) from 2008 to 2011. She also worked at Unite the Union, UNI Europa and at the European Trade Union Institute. She completed her Social and Political Studies at the University of Sheffield and obtained her "MSc European Social" diploma from the University of Bath.



Ignacio Fernández Toxo

Elected ETUC President at the Congress in Athens.

Ignacio Fernández Toxo was born in 1952 in El Ferrol, Spain. He became the General Secretary of Spanish trade union Comisiones Obreras (CC.OO.) in December 2008. He was elected member of CC.OO.'s Confederal Executive Committee in 2004 and appointed Secretary of Trade Union Action and Sectorial Policy. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF) from 1991 to 2004. In 1987 he was elected General Secretary of the Metalworkers' Federation of CC.OO, a position he held until 1995.



Judith Kirton-Darling

Elected ETUC Confederal Secretary at the Congress in Athens.

Judith Kirton-Darling was born in Tanzania in 1977, British citizen.



[Trade Union Agenda] May – June 2011

04/05/2011	Meeting of the Group II 'Workers' of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
16–19/05/2011	12th Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)	Web site dedicated to the Congress
15/06/2011	Meeting of the Group II 'Workers' of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
21/06/2011	Trade Union Action and Information Day on Economic Governance (Luxembourg)	
28/06/2011	ETUC Steering Committee (Brussels)	
28–29/06/2011	ETUC Executive Committee (Brussels)	



[Photos of the 12th ETUC Congress]





[EU Agenda] May – June 2011

02-03/05/2011	Informal meeting of energy ministers (Budapest)	
09-12/05/2011	Plenary Session of the European Parliament (Strasbourg)	
04-05/05/2011	Plenary Session of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
13/05/2011	Foreign Affairs Council – Trade (Brussels)	
16/05/2011	Eurogroup meeting (Brussels)	
17/05/2011	ECOFIN Council (Brussels)	
19/05/2011	Employment and Social Affairs Council (Brussels)	
19-20/05/2011	Education, Youth and Culture Council (Brussels)	
23/05/2011	General Affairs and External Relations Council (Luxembourg)	
27/05/2011	Energy Council (Brussels)	
30-31/05/2011	Competitiveness Council (Brussels)	
06/06/2011	Health Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
06-09/06/2011	Plenary Session of the European Parliament (Strasbourg)	
09-10/06/2011	Justice and Home Affairs Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
10/06/2011	Energy Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
15-16/06/2011	Plenary Session of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
17/06/2011	Employment and Social Affairs Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
20/06/2011	Eurogroup meeting (Luxembourg)	
20/06/2011	ECOFIN Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
20-21/06/2011	General Affairs and External Relations Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
17/06/2011	Environment Council (Luxembourg)	Council Agenda
22-23/06/2011	Mini-Plenary Session of the European Parliament (Brussels)	
24/06/2011	European Council (Brussels)	Council Agenda

Editorial team: MANAGING EDITOR: **Bernadette Ségol** • EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: **Patricia Grillo** • EDITOR: **Daniele Melli**

Please pass this newsletter on to your colleagues and contacts