

# [ ETUC newsletter ]



## CONTENTS

- 2 ETUC in action
- 2 Trade Union Agenda
- 3 Focus on the EU
- 5 EU agenda

## Figure of the month

# One million jobs lost

According to the latest statistics from the Italian employer organization Confindustria, about 800,000 jobs have been lost in Italy since the start of the crisis in 2008. Due to the austerity measures and the persistence of the crisis, a further 200,000 jobs risk being lost in 2012.

(Source: La Repubblica)

## Note



Dear Readers,

The last European Summit for 2011 resulted in a divided European Union and a decision to engage towards an international treaty aimed at imposing a fiscal compact on EU countries.

The agreement seeks to reinforce existing austerity policies strengthening obligations on member states to pursue fiscal policies, giving priority to rigid economic rules at a time when unemployment is intolerably high. We have grave doubts that this approach will not produce the expected result as nothing has been concretely done to promote growth and decent jobs. Once more, market short-termism appears to be dictating our common future.

We are told that such policies should serve competitiveness. For the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), there is no doubt that competitiveness is a key element of a sound economy. However this will not be achieved through downwards pressure on wages and working conditions, and the dismantling of social protection systems and public services. For the ETUC, Europe will not compete with China and other emerging countries through such retrograde policies! Alternatives for sustainable growth do exist and must represent the change.

In particular, we believe that the time has come to address some of the Euro Area's key problems, such as the need for a 'lender of last resort' for Euro Area governments, a financial transaction tax to put a stop to the financial sector's irrational behaviour and the need for Eurobonds. These gaps must be corrected without hesitation. At the same time, wages, social partners' autonomy and trade union rights continue to be under attack. That is not acceptable. The European trade union movement supports Europe's construction, but our support is not unconditional. A "fiscal compact" must go hand in hand with a "social compact" for Europe, entailing fairness, fight against inequalities and for good employment.

Regarding the informal European Council called for 30 January to address jobs and growth issues, we urge the EU Danish Presidency and the President of the European Council to consult us and take into account our proposals and suggestions.

Best wishes for New Year 2012.

**Bernadette Ségol,**  
General Secretary



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# [ La CES en action ]

## MAJOR MEETINGS

### ETUC Executive Committee

07-08/12/11 - The ETUC Executive Committee met in Brussels. The economic and social crisis was the main topic of the discussions. The Executive Committee sent an [urgent message to the European Council of 8-9 December on the discussion of changes in the Lisbon Treaty](#). It was underlined that those changes must follow a democratic process. Moreover, **the Executive Committee demanded measures to promote growth and employment.** Resolutions on the protection of fundamental social rights and the posting of workers, corporate social responsibility, a new European health and safety strategy, as well as on workers' participation rights were adopted. A declaration on "2012: the European Year of Active Ageing" was also adopted.

## ETUC CAMPAIGNS

### "12 by 12" - The ETUC joins the world-wide campaign to promote decent work for domestic workers



19/12/2011 - Hundreds of domestic workers symbolically [cleaned the square in front of the European Parliament in Brussels](#). This initiative was designed to kick off the **world-wide Campaign "12 by 12"** led by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in partnership with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the International

Domestic Workers Network (IDWN) and several national unions and NGOs fighting for women's and migrants' rights. **The aim of this campaign is to get the first 12 countries to pass decent laws for domestic workers** and to ratify the C 189 Domestic Workers Convention in 2012. These workers are campaigning for one day off a week, a minimum wage, an 8-hour day, the right to join a union, protection from exploitation and abuse, social protection and the regulation of employment agencies.

ETUC press release: <http://www.etuc.org/a/9426>

# [ Trade Union Agenda ]

December 2011 - January 2012

06/12/2011	General Assembly of the Pan-European Regional Council (Brussels)	
07/12/2011	Meeting of the Group II 'Workers' of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
07/12/2011	ETUC Steering Committee (Brussels)	
07-08/12/2011	ETUC Executive Committee (Brussels)	
18/01/2012	Meeting of the Group II 'Workers' of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
25/01/2012	ETUC Steering Committee (Brussels)	
26-28/01/2012	CGTP-IN Congress (Lisbon)	<a href="#">More information</a>



## [ Focus on the EU and trade union positions ]

### The “last chance summit” produced a split in the EU and more austerity

09/12/11 – Due to the British government’s opposition to a unanimous compromise, the last European summit has led to an intergovernmental agreement between 26 EU member countries. For the ETUC, **this agreement**, better known as a “fiscal compact”, **has produced a major split in the European Union, whose integrity risks being undermined**. Furthermore, “*more fiscal discipline, more automatic sanctions and stricter surveillance*” that make up this fiscal compact confirm the establishment of a new “golden rule” in Europe: **austerity**. [In opposition to the ETUC’s demands](#), **no measures have been taken to promote sustainable growth and jobs**. “*Europe needs a social compact which guarantees non-intervention by the EU in wage setting mechanisms as well as the autonomy of social partners, and in addition protects and promotes our social model. The ETUC will demand that a social progress protocol be included in any revision of the Treaty or in any new Treaty*” said Bernadette Ségol.

ETUC press release: <http://www.etuc.org/a/9391>

### Durban Climate Conference: Mixed Outcome

13/12/11 – For the ETUC, the outcome of the Durban Climate Conference was mixed. According to the ETUC, **the Durban agreement has temporarily saved the multilateral approach, but the measures needed to reach the goal of limiting global warming to 2°C maximum, have not yet been defined**. Faced with this situation, the ETUC called on Europe to rapidly adopt a “new sustainable deal” by encouraging investment that would lead to a low-carbon economy capable of creating quality jobs.

ETUC press release: <http://www.etuc.org/a/9397>

### Health and safety: the crisis cannot be an excuse to reduce workers’ protection

13/12/11 – Gathering in Krakow to discuss the European strategy for health and safety in the work place, **over 100 European trade unionists launched a strong call for a new EU strategy in this area**. A series of demands based on reinforcing prevention structures, worker participation and addressing the long-term impact on health from chemicals and hazardous substances, musculoskeletal disorders and psychosocial risks were raised.

The ETUC called for Members of the European Parliament (EP) to support these demands as reflected in Karima Delli’s report due to be adopted at the EP Plenary Session on 14 December.

ETUC press release: <http://www.etuc.org/a/9396>



## [ Focus on the EU and trade union positions ]

### Strengthened worker participation rights and more social inclusion are needed to counter the crisis

06/12/11 - In a workshop dedicated to socially sustainable anti-crisis measures organised in the contest of the European People's Party (EPP) Congress, Claudia Menne, ETUC Confederal Secretary, **spoke in favour of more social inclusion and more worker participation rights**. For the ETUC, the crisis is being used to undermine the European social model and to attack workers' and trade union rights. *"Austerity has not paved the way out of the crisis. On the contrary, unemployment and deeper inequalities are growing. If European integration continues to be perceived as damaging to Social Europe, the risk of an anti-European backlash could pose a real threat"* said Claudia Menne.

ETUC press release: <http://www.etuc.org/a/9381>

### Deregulation is threatening workers' health and safety

02/12/11 - The [ETUC sent a letter to EU Heads of State and Government](#) to express **serious concerns about** the report from the European Commission on "**Minimizing the regulatory burden for Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)**" to be discussed at the European Council on 8 and 9 December. For the ETUC, this deregulation represents a **threat to workers' health and safety**. Furthermore, any review of legislation concerning employment and social policy **must involve the social partners**.

ETUC press release: <http://www.etuc.org/a/9367>

### If we want a resource-efficient Europe, we need to involve the workers

16/12/11 - The ETUC has seen the draft conclusions of the Environment Council held on December 19<sup>th</sup> dedicated to **the adoption of the Roadmap to a Resource-Efficient Europe**. For the ETUC, while there are positive elements, fundamental gaps remain and need to be corrected. In this context, the ETUC has consistently called on the European Union to adopt "**a Sustainable New Deal for Europe**," ensuring significant investment to promote an energy- and resource-efficient society. However, **it is equally as important to ensure a just transition for workers**, to guarantee that quality jobs are maintained and created.

ETUC press release: <http://www.etuc.org/a/9455>



## [EU Agenda] December 2011 – January 2012

30/11-01/12/2011	Mini-Plenary Session of the European Parliament (Brussels)	
01/12/2011	External Relations Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
01-02/12/2011	Employment and Social Affairs Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
05/12/2011	General Affairs Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
05-06/12/2011	Competitiveness Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
07-08/12/2011	Plenary Session of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
08-09/12/2011	European Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
12-15/12/2011	Plenary Session of the European Parliament (Strasbourg)	
13-14/12/2011	Justice and Home Affairs Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
19/12/2011	Environment Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
16-19/01/2012	Plenary Session of the European Parliament (Strasbourg)	
18-19/01/2012	Plenary Session of the European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels)	
23/01/2012	Eurogroup meeting (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
24/01/2012	ECOFIN Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
26-27/01/2012	Informal meeting of Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs (Copenhagen)	<a href="#">More information</a>
30/01/2012	External Relations Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>
30/01/2012	Informal meeting of the European Council (Brussels)	
31/01/2012	General Affairs Council (Brussels)	<a href="#">More information</a>

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