

Esther Lynch

Esther Lynch was elected as ETUC Deputy General Secretary at the Vienna Congress in May 2019, after four years as Confederal Secretary. She has extensive trade union experience at Irish, European and international levels, starting with her election as a shop steward in the 1980s. Before coming to the ETUC, she was the Legislation and Social Affairs Officer with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), where she took part in negotiations on Ireland's National Social Partner Agreements.

Esther's responsibilities include social dialogue, collective bargaining and wage policy, trade union rights, gender equality and Brexit. In 2017 she ran a successful EU-wide online campaign 'Social Rights First' that mobilised worker and trade union support for the European Pillar of Social Rights and helped to ensure that trade union priorities were anchored within it. She led ETUC lobbying actions for new legislative initiatives to improve working conditions, such as the draft Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions Directive and the Whistleblowing Directive.

Esther spearheaded the 'Europe Needs a Pay Rise' campaign that placed the demand for higher wages for workers at the top of the EU policy agenda and is now working on a new strategy for collective bargaining, building trade union power and the right to organise and bargain effectively also across borders, in cooperation with national affiliates and European Trade Union Federations. As Confederal Secretary, she oversaw the political activity of the ETUI on Health and Safety and led a successful campaign against work-related cancers, culminating in a joint covenant on action to prevent work-related cancer signed by Business Europe, the European Commission and the ETUC. She helped secure the EU's adoption of legally binding occupational exposure limits to protect workers in the public and private sectors, chemicals, manufacturing, construction, woodworking, mining, health, retail and services from exposure to carcinogens, as well as a social partners' agreement on Reprotoxins.

Work experience

May 2019 -

European Confederation of Trade Unions, Deputy General Secretary

2015 - 2019

ETUC, Confederal Secretary

1993 - 2015

Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), with a key role in negotiations on Ireland's National Social Partner Agreements.

- 2007-2015: Legislation and Social Affairs Officer, part of the senior leadership team
- 2000-2007: Industrial Officer with responsibility for equality
- 1993-2000: Social Policy Officer with responsibility for managing a National Network of Unemployed Centres

1991-1993

Irish Department of Social Welfare, Political Advisor to Minister for Social Affairs, Joan Burton TD

1989 -1991

St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Coordinator for the Diploma Programme in estate management studies

Other experience

2000-2015: **International Labour Organisation**, worker delegate for Ireland; elected by the workers' electoral college to the drafting committee for several international Conventions

2005 -

International Centre for Trade Union Rights, Executive member

2012 -

National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Senior Adjunct Lecturer in law

2008-2015: **Council of the Bar in Ireland**, Attorney General's substitute member on the Disciplinary Tribunal

2007-2009: **Veolia** (light rail transport in Ireland), Independent adjudicator for the in-house tribunal

2002-2008: **ESB** (Ireland's main electricity supplier), Independent Chair of the Joint Equality Council (in-house tribunal)

Education

2000-2004: **Dublin Institute of Technology**, BSc Management and Law

Languages

English: mother tongue