**Esther Lynch**

Esther Lynch was elected General Secretary in December 2022. 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 at the ETUC have included social dialogue, collective bargaining and

wage policy, trade union rights, gender equality and the fight against the far-right.

She 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 secured improvements to the EU Directive on minimum wages. She worked extensively on the strengthening the Gender Pay Transparency Directive.

She has led ETUC lobbying actions for new legislative initiatives to improve working conditions, such as the Transparent and Predicable Working Conditions Directive and the Whistleblowing Directive. She obtained the agreement of European employers to negotiate an agreement on teleworking and the right to disconnect.

She helped secure adoption of legally binding EU occupational exposure limits to protect workers from carcinogens, as well as a social partners’ agreement on Reprotoxins.

**Work experience**

2019-2022 European Confederation of Trade Unions (ETUC), 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 ICTU Legislation and Social Affairs Officer

2000-2007 ICTU 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 inhouse 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