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**Eurozone should embrace a growth strategy with jobs at its core**



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Unemployment in the Eurozone could reach almost 22 million over the next four years. A further 4.5 million jobs will be lost compared to the 17.4 million unemployed in April 2012 if the current policy course does not change, warns the ILO Institute for Labour Studies in the report "[Eurozone job crisis: trends and policy responses](#)". All Eurozone countries will be affected, as well and the entire global economy.

The report shows that, by embracing a Eurozone growth strategy with jobs at its core, a recovery is still possible within a single-currency setting. To move out of the austerity trap, the report recommends repairing the financial system conditional on resuming credit to small firms, promoting investment and supporting jobseekers and addressing differences in competitiveness between Eurozone countries.

Building blocks for greater Eurozone coordination have been put in place in the wake of the [Eurozone Summit outcome](#) at the end of June, the European Commission's proposed [Action for Stability, Growth and Jobs](#) and its [Employment Package](#). Those need to be followed by concrete action.

## ILO Eurozone note calls for youth guarantee and coordinated collective bargaining



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In the report “[Eurozone job crisis: trends and policy responses](#)”, the ILO Institute for Labour Studies also underlines that a well-designed youth guarantee programme, at a cost estimated at less than 0.5 per cent of the Eurozone’s government spending, could be quickly implemented. Under such a guarantee, the authorities commit to offer young unemployed a place in an education, training or work programme or special job-search support. To fund this, there is a case for refocusing European Structural Funds and mobilizing the European Investment Bank.

The report highlights that addressing differences in competitiveness between Eurozone countries opens up a new opportunity for social dialogue. This should ensure that: labour incomes grow in line with productivity in the stronger economies; income moderation in deficit countries is complemented with policies to boost the industrial base; a downward spiral in wages and worker rights is prevented. Coordinated collective bargaining would facilitate the transition to a more competitive Eurozone, while boosting confidence that responses are fair. Recent moves in some Eurozone and other EU countries to weaken or even suspend collective bargaining are counterproductive.

## ILO Director-General Elect Guy Ryder at the European Parliament Employment Committee



Guy Ryder, recently elected as Director-General of the ILO, had an exchange on 21 June 2012 with the European Parliament Employment and Social Affairs Committee. He addressed the future and challenges ahead of the ILO, the important role of the EU in addressing the employment and social dimension of the global financial and economic crisis and the significance of ILO-EU cooperation.

He also had meetings with the European Commission and the UN in Brussels. The UN-Brussels video team interviewed Guy Ryder on his views on [the ILO-EU partnership](#) and on the [challenges ahead of the ILO](#).

## 880 000 people are in forced labour in the EU



According to [new and unique ILO estimates](#) on forced labour and human trafficking in the European Union, 880 000 people are in forced labour in EU Member states. This number statistically equals 1.8 persons per 1,000 inhabitants. At the launch event in Brussels, hosted by Members of the European Parliament Edit

Bauer and Livia Jaroka, the head of the ILO's Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour, Beate Andrees, said that the estimate clearly shows that agriculture, domestic work, manufacturing and construction are the main sectors where forced labour is found in the EU.

### **ILO informs European Parliament trade committee on core labour standards**



An ILO Office team, headed by Karen Curtis, Deputy Director of the ILO Office's International Labour Standards Department, informed on 12 July 2012 the European Parliament's International Trade Committee (INTA) on [recent findings](#) by the ILO supervisory system on the application of ILO Conventions. The INTA Committee appreciated the assessments by the ILO supervisory system of the situation in a number of EU trade partner countries, based on regular reporting to the ILO committee of independent experts, on tripartite discussions and on complaints. INTA requested information on the application of core labour standards in Colombia, Georgia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines and Peru and on child labour in Uzbekistan and in other cotton and cacao producing countries in West Africa.

### **First anniversary of domestic workers convention**



On 16 June 2012, the ILO celebrated the first anniversary of the [Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 \(No. 189\)](#). Uruguay was the first country to ratify this landmark Convention on 14 June 2012. On 26 June 2012, the African platform IDAY organized an event in Brussels showing the documentary "[The invisible workers](#)" and generating a discussion between various players in the field of domestic work, including the ILO-Brussels. The Ambassador of Uruguay in Belgium, representing the first country ratifying the Convention, concluded the debate.

### **ILO analyses effects of public sector adjustments in wake of economic crisis**



As a response to the crisis, many European governments put in place austerity policies, thereby carrying out public sector reforms. The ILO and the European Commission jointly organized on 21 and 22 June 2012 a [conference](#) on the nature, scope and effects of these public sector adjustments. The ILO Director-

General Elect Guy Ryder addressed the conference. The conference revealed that social dialogue in several EU Member states was very effective in ensuring effective and fair adjustments. At the conference, the paper “Public Sector Adjustments in Europe - Scope, Effects and Policy Issues” was launched. This paper, which will be published as a book in the autumn of 2012, shows that pressure to reduce public expenditure tends to favour cuts in expenditure, jobs and wages in the public sector.

### Sweden ratifies Maritime Labour Convention



The [Government of Sweden](#) has deposited on 12 June 2012 with the International Labour Office the instruments of ratification of the [Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 \(MLC\)](#). Sweden is the 28<sup>th</sup> ILO Member and the 8<sup>th</sup> member of the European Union to ratify this Convention. To come into force, the Convention requires ratification by at least 30 members with a total share of at least 33 per cent of the world gross tonnage of ships. The gross tonnage element has already been achieved. It is expected that the remaining two ratifications will be registered before the end of 2012, which will enable the Convention to come into effect in 2013.

### ILO at the EU sector social dialogue committee for temporary agency work



The ILO-Brussels presented on 15 June 2012 the [ILO Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 \(No. 181\)](#) to the EU social partners at the European sector social dialogue committee for temporary agency work. The ratification and application by all EU Member states of this Convention, classified by ILO as an up-to-date instrument, could complement the [EU Directive on temporary agency work](#) as the ILO Convention has a wider scope of application and covers a wider range of issues such as social security, supervision of private agencies, operations of recruitment agencies and cooperation between public and private employment services.

### Chocolate, Biscuit and Confectionery Industries reflect on sustainability



The Association of the Chocolate, Biscuit and Confectionery Industries of the EU [CAOBISCO](#) held a sustainability conference in Brussels, gathering representatives from European and international

institutions, the supply chain, the industry, NGOs and consumers. Mr Simon Steyne from the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) participated in the panel on the social pillar of sustainability. He called for an integrated approach in which social, economic and environmental considerations were covered holistically to respect the human rights of all children and to tackle the root causes of child labour by promoting decent work for adults, social protection and universal education for children. He emphasized the necessity to promote social dialogue at sectoral, enterprise and community level by supporting the organization and empowerment of communities, small farmers and agricultural workers as a means to ensure that the campaign against child labour was owned at all levels, and to enable a fairer sharing of wealth in value chains.

### **EU adopts Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy**



On 25 June 2012, the European Council adopted a [Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy](#) and accompanying Action Plan. The framework reaffirms the EU's commitment to the promotion of human rights, including ILO Conventions, in all EU external policies. The action plan notes measures to be implemented by the European Commission and Member States, including through trade instruments such as General Preferential Scheme for Sustainable Development and Good Governance (GSP+), dialogue with partner countries on human rights including ILO core labour standards, development cooperation,

external dimension of EU employment and social policies and cooperation within and with the ILO.

### **European social partners sign agreement based on ILO fisheries convention**



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The European Transport Workers' Federation, Europêche and Cogeca [signed](#) on 21 May 2012 a Social Partners Agreement (SPA) aiming at incorporating important parts of the [ILO Convention on Work in Fishing, 2007 \(No.188\)](#) into EU law. This ILO Convention contributes to decent work and living conditions worldwide for fishermen. EU social partners have requested the European Commission to present a proposal for a Directive to the Council implementing the SPA in accordance with the EU established Treaty provisions and practices.

### **ETUI paper on labour law reforms in European countries**



A recently published ETUI working paper titled "[The crisis and national labour law reforms: a mapping exercise](#)" explores the labour law reforms as a result of the economic crisis in various European countries. The

working paper analyzes their impact on fundamental social rights and workers' protection.

### **Jobs, Growth and Social Justice on the agenda of the European Regional Meeting**



The ILO invites ministers, social partners and global leaders to Oslo, Norway in April 2013 to discuss the response to the economic and jobs crisis in the diverse and complex region of Europe and Central Asia. This [9th European Regional Meeting](#) will focus on creating job-rich growth, promoting quality jobs through social dialogue, tackling youth unemployment and demographic challenges, promoting labour standards and policy coherence.

#### **Scheduled meetings**

[List of scheduled ILO meetings](#)

#### **Contact us**

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