

NETLEX CONFERENCE 2022

“FIGHTING FOR WORKERS’ RIGHTS AGAINST THE ODDS”

15&16 November 2022

The International Auditorium, 5 Boulevard Roi Albert II
Brussels 1210

Draft programme

Interpretation: English, French, German, Italian and Spanish (confirmed)

Day 1 – Human rights under pressure: making them stronger through trade union activism

08:30 – 09:00 Registration of participants

09:00 – 09:30 **Welcome and Introduction**

Isabelle Schömann, ETUC Confederal Secretary

Key note address: Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and extreme poverty

09:30 – 10:45 **Opening session: Protecting human rights in times of crisis**

Chair: Isabelle Schömann, ETUC Confederal Secretary

09:30 – 10:30 **A moderated debate “protecting social, workers’ and trade union rights in Europe in times of crisis: a tough battle”**

Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and extreme poverty

Spokesperson, IndustriAll Europe

Miriam Kullmann, Member of the Council of Europe’s European Committee of Social Rights

10:30 - 10:45 Q&A with participants

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 **Session I: Workers rights are not for sale**

Chair: **Niklas Franke**, ETUC Project Officer

11:00 – 11:15 Testimonies from workers about human rights violations

11:15 - 12:00 **A Moderated debate “The impact of unsatisfactory human rights due diligence legislation”**

Jan Buelens, Founder of ELW Network, Professor at the University of Antwerp and Université Libre de Bruxelles

Victor Hugo Ricco, Senior Specialist in Workers’ Activities at the Bureau of Workers’ Activities (ACTRAV) of the International Labour Organization (ILO)

Jeff Vogt, Director, Rule of Law Department, Solidarity Center

Zuzanna Muskat-Gorska, Legal Officer, International Trade Union Confederation

12:00 – 12:15 **Presentation on European corporate sustainability due diligence: what to expect ahead of the EU trilogue**

Stefan Clauwaert, ETUC Senior Legal and Human Rights Advisor

12:15 – 12:30 Q&A with participants

Lunch 12:30 – 14:00

14:00 – 15:30 **Session II: Trade union involvement in judicial and quasi-judicial litigation**

Chair: **Thomas Taylor Di Pietro**, ETUC Project Officer

Short presentation on the state of play

14:15 – 14:40 **Presentation on what trade unions can expect from the CoE European Social Charter reforms**

Christophe Poirel, Director of Human Rights, Council of Europe

14:40 – 15:15 **A moderated debate “the implications of the reforms for trade union involvement and the trade union demands”**

Christophe Poirel, Director of Human Rights, Council of Europe

Melanie Schmitt, TTUR Member, Professor of Labour Law, University of Strasbourg

Stefan Clauwaert, ETUC Senior Legal and Human Rights Advisor

15:15 – 15:30 Q&A with participants

15:30 – 15:50 *Coffee Break*

15:50 - 17:00 **Session III: Organising work in the aftermath of the COVID crisis?**

Chair: Joakim Smedman, ETUC Legal Advisor

Developments in working time legislation and practices

15:50 – 16:10 **Presentation on recent developments in the field of working time**

Michel Miné, Professor of Labour Law, CNAM

16:10 – 16:30 **Presentation of the Eurofound study “Telework in the EU: Regulatory frameworks and recent updates**

Oscar Vargas Llave, Working Life Research Manager, Eurofound

16:30 – 16:45 **Presentation on current developments in collective bargaining**

Ruairi Fitzgerald, ETUC Advisor

16:45 - 17:00 *Q&A with participants*

19:00 – *Dinner, Café Victor Bozar, Rue Ravenstein 23*

Day 2 – Trade unions shaping the EU policy agenda

08:30 – 09:00 Registration of participants

09:00 – 10:00 **Session I: A collective bargaining boost beyond minimum wage**

Chair: Stefan Clauwaert, ETUC Senior Legal and Human Rights Advisor

09:00 – 09:45 **“The directive on adequate minimum wages in the European Union: a tough bargain”**

Barbara Kauffman, European Commission, DG Employment, Director of Directorate F Employment and social governance analysis

Torsten Müller, Senior Researcher, ETUI

Lorenzo Repetti, Senior ETUC Advisor

09:45 – 10:00 Q&A with participants

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee break

10:30 – 11:30 **Session II: Towards more socially responsible competition policies**

Chair: Joakim Smedman, ETUC Legal Advisor

Competition law from a trade union perspective – a presentation on the Progressive Policies study

Séverine Picard, Founder of Progressive Policies

A presentation of the Commission guidelines on collective bargaining of the self - employed

Anna Vernet, European Commission, DG for Competition, Head of Unit

11:15 – 11:30 Q&A with participants

11:35 –12:45 **Closing session: Building a resilient future through workers' empowerment**

Chair: **Isabelle, Schömann**, *ETUC Confederal Secretary*

11:35 – 12:30 **A moderated debate: “Shaping the future: trade union demands ahead of the ETUC 2023 Congress”**

Lord John Hendy, Kings Counsel, Member of the House of Lords

Enrico Somaglia, Deputy General Secretary, EFFAT

Giulia Barbucci, Vice-President of the European Economic and Social Committee and member of the Workers' Group

Joeri Hens, Advisor on European Affairs, ABVV-FGTB

Chris Serroyen, Head of Research, ACV-CSC

Mika Domisch, International Secretary, TCO (tbc)

12:30 – 12:45 *Q&A with participants*

12:45 – 13:00: **Conclusions**

13:00: *end of conference lunch*