

## 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

**Isabelle Barthès**, Senior Policy Advisor, IndustriAll Europe (tbc)

**Spokesperson**, Council of Europe, 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: **Stefan Gran**, ETUC Senior Advisor

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

**Spokesperson**, International Trade Union Confederation (tbc)

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

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**

**Spokesperson**, Council of Europe, European Social Charter Department

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

**Spokesperson**, Council of Europe, European Social Charter Department

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

**Klaus Lörcher**, Former ETUC Senior Legal and Human Rights Advisor (tbc)

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 (tbc)

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 (tbc)*

**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 – 09:30 **A Moderated debate “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

**Spokesperson**, European Parliament

09:30 – 09:45 **Presentation on the ETUC Action Plan for implementation of the minimum wage directive**

**Lorenzo Repetti**, Senior ETUC Advisor

*09:45 – 10:00 Q&A with participants*

*10:00 – 10:30 Coffee break*

10:30 – 11:20 **Session II: Towards more socially responsible competition policies**

*Chair: **Joakim Smedman**, ETUC Legal Advisor*

10:20 – 10:40 **Competition law from a trade union perspective – a presentation on the Progressive Policies study**

**Séverine Picard**, Founder of Progressive Policies

10:40 – 11:05 **A moderated debate “Competition law and collective bargaining of the self-employed”**

**Séverine Picard**, Founder of Progressive Policies

**Anna Vernet**, European Commission, DG for Competition, Head of Unit E.4 European Competition Network and Private enforcement.

*11:05 – 11:35 Q&A with participants*

11:35 –12:30 **Closing session: Building a resilient future through workers' empowerment**

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

11:35 – 12:15 **A moderated debate: “Shaping the future: trade union demands ahead of the ETUC 2023 Congress”**

**Lord John Hendy**, KC (tbc)

**Enrico Somaglia**, Deputy General Secretary, EFFAT

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

**Gaby Bischoff**, Member of the European Parliament and vice-chair of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (tbc)

**Joeri Hens**, Advisor on European Affairs, ABVV-FGTB

**Chris Serroyen**, Head of Research, ACV-CSC

**Mika Domisch**, International Secretary, TCO (tbc)

12:15 – 12:30 *Q&A with participants*

12:30-12:45: **Conclusions**

12:45: *end of conference lunch*