

# A NEW PATH FOR EUROPE: EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION PLAN FOR INVESTMENT, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND QUALITY JOBS

Five years after the beginning of the crisis, European citizens continue to suffer from economic and social uncertainty. Unemployment, precarious work, inequality and poverty ruin the lives of many. Beating the recession, and the stagnation of our economies, giving people hope and confidence is the most urgent task facing EU leaders.

The EU has the potential to combat the crisis. There is an urgent need to take a new direction, to stabilise the economic situation and create quality jobs in a social Europe. The EU must use its strengths to forge a more prosperous, equal and democratic future.

It is necessary to have a longer-term perspective. Massive investments are needed to give our economies a new start, based on sustainable growth. We propose an investment target of 2% of EU GDP annually over a ten-year period. This will have the additional effect of boosting added private investment, and promote wide-scale private modernisation measures.

Such investments would help building a strong industrial base, good public services, properly functioning state systems, with inclusive welfare systems, and innovative research and educational institutions.

€1,000 billion was spent to save the financial sector. €1,000 billion is lost every year in tax evasion and fraud. It is now time to spend €250 billion for quality jobs and a good future for EU citizens. A bold investment plan could yield up to 11 million quality new jobs.

The plan is open to all EU countries, with Europe-wide projects being developed in conjunction with national investment projects. Investments that have the greatest impact on domestic economic activity should be given priority.

## ETUC SUPPORTS

- » Massive investments for sustainable growth and quality jobs
- » Good public and private sector services, properly functioning state systems, with inclusive welfare systems, and innovative research and educational institutions.
- » The end of tax fraud and tax evasion; fair taxation to finance an investment plan.
- » Flexibility in applying public deficit rules, if investments are made.

## ETUC IS AGAINST

- » Policies based on austerity.
- » A lost decade, with massive unemployment, precarious work and tax injustice.
- » Economic policies geared to reassure markets instead of securing social progress.



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# MANIFESTO OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION AHEAD OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

At the end of May 2014, EU citizens will be asked to vote on who will represent them in the European Parliament.

The election is important for all Europeans. The parliament has the power to make European laws, decide the EU budget and appoint the president of the European Commission. These elections will take place against a backdrop of a prolonged financial, economic and social crisis in Europe.

We call on citizens to vote for candidates that will change the way the EU is being run.

Europe can change in 2014. ETUC is promoting an alternative vision for a prosperous, socially inclusive Europe. We need to support candidates that share this vision.

ETUC, the voice of European workers, is calling on all citizens to get behind those who promote a progressive Europe, an inclusive Europe, and a Europe that works for the rights of its people. A better Europe is possible. Together, we can make it happen. Together, we can forge a new path for Europe.

## ETUC STANDS FOR

- » A social Europe; a Europe that provides its citizens with quality employment and a secure future.
- » The end to austerity. The EU must put solidarity back at the heart of its policies. Social Europe must not be dismantled.
- » A new industrial policy based on innovation, research and development, education, training, health and just transition.
- » An ambitious investment plan that will revitalise the European economy.
- » Social justice for its citizens. The gap between rich and poor must close.
- » Equality. Effective measures to secure equal pay and rights for all must be upheld. The pay gap between women and men must end.
- » Progressive taxation. Redistributive and graduated taxation on income and wealth, the end of tax havens, tax evasion, fraud, corruption and undeclared work.
- » Fair global trade.

## ETUC IS AGAINST

- » Any attempts to reverse the progress made by the trade union movement in advancing the working and social conditions of citizens.
- » The undermining of the European project through policies that go against the basis of the European social model, such as good industrial relations, quality public services and inclusive social protection.
- » A system that makes people compete on the basis of reduced wages, poor working conditions, inadequate social protection and unfair taxation. European employment policy should not be based on precarious work and inequality.



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