

To the Members of the European
Parliament

[Letter sent by e-mail]

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

I congratulate you on your election and wish you a successful and rewarding mandate.

The ETUC is firmly committed to the European Union, to the European social model, and to democracy at EU level, particularly through the European Parliament.

The new European Parliament is starting its work at a crucial time for Europe. The Euro may have been saved but the crisis is far from over. There are over 25 million unemployed. 7.5 million young people are neither in education, nor training, nor employment. We risk a lost generation.

The results of the European elections demonstrate the growing distance between workers and citizens with the EU institutions and their leaders. They provide a clear signal that the austerity policies of the last five years have failed to convince voters.

The UN agency, the International Labour Organisation, in its World Social Protection Report 2014/15, it writes “poverty and social exclusion, now affecting 123 million people in the European Union, 24 per cent of the population, many of them children, women, older persons and persons with disabilities. The cost of adjustment has been passed on to populations, who have been coping with fewer jobs and lower income for more than five years. Depressed household income levels are leading to lower domestic consumption and lower demand, slowing recovery. The achievements of the European social model, which dramatically reduced poverty in the period following the Second World War, have been eroded by short-term adjustment reforms.”

The ETUC calls on the European Union to adopt new policies as a matter of priority to tackle the crisis and restore confidence in the European Union and in mainstream, democratic politics.

The ETUC calls on the new European Parliament to do all it can to achieve:

- ***A revitalised employment strategy as the EU's top priority: an ambitious European investment plan for the creation of quality jobs and to put industry back to work.*** European and national funding, public and private, is needed for industrial innovation, research and development, education, training, health and a Just Transition towards sustainable development as well as the Youth Guarantee. Alongside an investment plan, Europe needs a new industrial policy to restart the economy.
- ***An end to austerity.*** It is necessary to consolidate public finances, but not by dismantling social protection and benefits. A change in European Commission country-specific economic recommendations is urgent and essential.
- ***Fairer fiscal policy.*** New **binding** measures are needed to combat tax evasion, avoidance and fraud. The EU must also step up the fight against undeclared work.
- ***A guarantee that economic freedoms do not take precedence over fundamental social rights.*** The EU's main objective should be to improve living

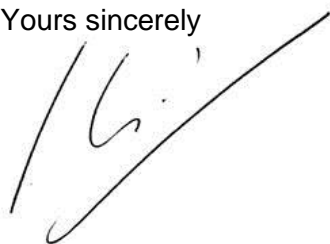
and working conditions for its citizens, a commitment that should be made in a 'Social Progress Protocol' appended to the Treaties.

- **A rethink of Refit.** Health and safety and other workers' rights benefit, and do not burden, the economy, and should be removed from the Commission's cutting of 'red tape'
- **An end to precarious work and low pay.** A minimum social income should be introduced based on common European principles.
- **Social dialogue and collective bargaining.** Social dialogue is essential to Europe's most successful economies and should be promoted across Europe, not dismantled by the Troika or undermined in the Commission's economic recommendations
- **A Framework Directive on Restructuring**
- Further actions to implement the **Equal Pay Directive**
- **The same treatment for migrant workers** as other workers. Specifically
 - a framework directive to harmonise the different definitions and rules for equal treatment we currently have in the several EU directives, in order to achieve full equal treatment for all
 - actions to improve integration of third country nationals in EU labour market and civil society
 - more coordination and solidarity in EU policy to tackle arrivals through external borders, and selective regularisation of undocumented migrants
- An ambitious European **health, safety, and hygiene at work strategy** is needed while further weakening of the Working Time Directive must be prevented.
- **Quality public services and services of general interest.** The EU should set new and ambitious childcare care targets, develop and adopt targets for the care of the elderly, demand that the European Commission come forward with its Carers Leave Directive.
- **Trade agreements** that are negotiated openly and in the public interest, promote workers' rights, and do not undermine public services or the right to legislate

These actions, if implemented, would restore public confidence in Europe and its' institutions, and show citizens that the European Union is working for everyone's benefit.

I urge you to support these proposals, and to use them to judge policies and proposals from the European Commission and Council.

Yours sincerely



Bernadette Ségol
General Secretary