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# Collective Bargaining News: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2017

## Wage Negotiations

- **Germany:** IG Metall has been provoked by the employers' counterclaims in the ongoing collective bargaining round in the metal and electrical industries. Industrial actions might be escalated. [Read more](#)
  - The demand: [Read more](#)
  - The working time conflict: [Read more](#)

## Trade Union Actions

- **Bulgaria:** Some 10,000 Bulgarian workers flooded the streets of Sofia on 27 October 2018 demanding decent incomes and improved workers' rights. [Read more](#)
- **Finland:** In early January 2018, white collar union PRO refused overtime work and threatened to take strike action in the paper industry to get a result in collective bargaining that reflected the profits and productivity in the sector. [Read more](#)
- **Greece:** Workers went on strike to fight for the right to strike in January 2018. The parliament has adopted a contentious reform in order to please Greece's creditors. [Read more](#)

## National Policies

- **Austria:** GPA-djp has summarised the most important problems following last year's election and change of government. Key words are deregulation, decentralisation, longer working hours, reform of social security, but no fight against social dumping. [Read more](#)
- **France:** FGMM-CFDT conducted a working time survey in the spring of 2017. Almost 4,000 members responded. Work outside normal hours, including weekends, and unpaid overtime were recurrent problems. [Read more](#)
- **Sweden:** The government decided to reintroduce tax incentives for trade union membership in 2018. [Read more](#)

- **Iceland** has become the first country in the world to make it illegal to pay men more than women. Companies and government agencies with more than 25 employees will be required to obtain government certification for their equal-pay policies. [Read more](#)
- **Ireland** aims at banning zero-hour contracts in most cases, except for casual workers, however. [Read more](#)

## European Union Policies

- **IndustriAll Europe:** The Social Pillar must be used as an opportunity to strike a new balance in favour of a more social Europe. In this sense, it must be more than a set of promises. [Read more](#)
- **The European Commission** has proposed a new directive on transparency and predictability of working conditions. It clarifies the legal rights of workers, but does very little to tackle precarious employment. [Read more](#)
- **The European Commission** has started a consultation of social partners on access to social protection, also for workers employed on non-standard contracts. [Read more](#)
- **The EESC:** Delivering on balanced economic growth and social progress should be the guiding principle for the debate on the social dimension of Europe. [Read more](#)

## Articles

- **Esther Lynch:** The European Commission continues to talk about robust recovery, but with wages falling or stagnating, many people in Europe are worse off than they were a decade ago. [Read more](#)
- **Jorge Cabrita (via Eurofound):** In 2015 in the EU28, women spent 58 hours in paid work and unpaid work (domestic work, etc.) against only 52.5 hours declared by men. The difference between actual and preferred working hours is largest in the parenting phase of people's lives. [Read more](#)

- **Anna Ludwinek:** More than one in four working-age adults in Europe are classified as economically inactive. They are not included in official employment statistics, are often economically and socially marginalised, and lack the resources to participate fully in society. [Read more](#)

## **Economic and social data**

- **Eurostat:** The employment developments are by and large positive in the EU. However, five Member States have unemployment levels above 10%. In Greece, 20% of the workforce is without a job. And one should bear in mind that many new jobs are precarious. [Read more](#)
- **Eurostat:** There are huge disparities with respect to social protection in the Member States, something which reflects both diverse economic standards and national priorities. [Read more](#)

## **Study reports**

- **The ETUI:** Can central and eastern Europe emerge from its low-wage model? [Read more](#)
- **The ETUI:** The why and how of working time reduction. [Read more](#)
- **Oxfam:** 82% of the wealth generated last year went to the richest 1% of the global population. [Read more](#)
- **Eurofound:** Demographic ageing implies a greater participation by older people in the labour market. Making work more sustainable over the life course requires working conditions that support individuals in remaining in work until the statutory retirement age. [Read more](#)
- **Eurofound:** Young people are more affected than any other age group by long-term unemployment. In 2016, 5.5% of the active population of young people in Europe aged 15–24 years were long-term unemployed. [Read more](#)



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## Legal issues

- **The EU Court:** Intermediation service of Über must be classified not as 'an information society service' but as 'a service in the field of transport'. [Read more](#)