
Collective Bargaining News: 1st Quarter 2019

Wage Negotiations

- **Germany:** IG Metall has signed a new collective agreement for steel workers in the North-West. It ensures a pay rise, free-time options and the prolongation of a partial retirement scheme. Warning strikes involving 26,000 workers were organised. [Read more](#). In another recent agreement textile workers will get a 4.9% pay rise over 24 months. [Read more](#)
- **The Netherlands:** Dutch unions have secured a collective agreement that delivers higher pay and better conditions for 150,000 metal workers after an eight-month campaign of strike action. [Read more](#)
- **Hungary:** Wages for workers at the Hankook plant in Dunaujváros (car tyres) are set to be as much as 18.5% higher on average. [Read more](#). A 16% pay rise has been agreed for workers of auto safety components producer, Autoliv. [Read more](#)
- **The Czech Republic:** Manufacturing workers in Swedish electrics company Nibe/Backer have scored a victory. A 15% pay rise for blue-collar workers and a 5.5% pay rise for white-collar workers were agreed. [Read more](#)
- **Spain:** Spanish textile workers are set for a pay rise after securing a collective agreement with the sector's big employers. [Read more](#)

Trade Union Actions

- **Romania:** Over 420 workers at the Electrolux plant in Satu Mare are currently in the eighth week of a strike aimed at winning a pay increase of €3/day. The wage workers currently receive is below the Romanian living wage. [Read more](#)

European Policies

- **The EU:** The Council of the EU and the European Parliament have reached a provisional agreement on a directive aimed at making working conditions across the EU more transparent and predictable. [Read more](#)
- **The EU:** There is agreement on a new directive on work-life balance. However, the steps forward are not very big. [Read more](#)
- **EESC:** A non-immigration scenario in Europe would mean that Member States' economies would suffer substantially; demographic challenges would be aggravated; pension systems might become unsustainable, etc. [Read more](#)

National Policies

- **Ireland:** A new law aims at curbing zero-hours contracts. [Read more](#)

Study Reports

- **ETUI:** Benchmarking Working Europe 2019, the annual stock-taking of European economic, labour market and social affairs, has been published. [Read more](#)
- **Hans-Böckler Foundation (WSI):** A new report provides an overview of current developments in minimum wages both in Europe and elsewhere. [Read more](#)
- **Eurofound:** A pilot project called “The Future of Manufacturing in Europe” has now been finalised and the final report delivered. [Read more](#)
- **The Bertelsmann Foundation:** The Future of Work: A Guide for Transatlantic Policymakers. [Read more](#)
- **Oxfam:** The world’s richest 1% earned 45.6% of all wealth created in 2018 whilst 26 people owned the same as the 3.8 billion people who make up the poorest half of the world. [Read more](#)

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- **ILO:** A landmark report by the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work examines how to achieve a better future of work for all at a time of unprecedented change. It has been written as part of ILO's centenary celebration in 2019. [Read more](#)

Articles

- **John Evans:** Globalisation has raised awareness of the inequality it has fostered but weakened the unions best placed to fight it. [Read more](#)
- **Esther Lynch (ETUC):** The good news is that employment in the EU is at a record high. The bad news is that so much of it is insecure work. The new directive on predictable and transparent working conditions needs to be tough enough to fix that. [Read more](#)
- **Thomas Carlén (LO-Sweden):** The wage share of GDP has been falling across the world as inequality has increased in recent decades. A co-ordinated rise is needed to reverse that. [Read more](#)
- **Martin Jefflén (Eurocadres):** An EU directive nearing completion will protect whistle-blowers, but only if they report within their organisation first. [Read more](#)
- **László Andor:** The regime of Viktor Orbán in Hungary had looked impregnable. But protests against the 'slave-labour law' encapsulated growing social alienation, with a wider European resonance. [Read more](#)

Legal issues

- **CJEU:** Employers may not exclude their employees from paid holiday on Good Friday if they are not members of evangelical churches. That would constitute discrimination on grounds of religion prohibited under EU law. [Read more](#)