



# EFBWW NEWSLETTER

## News from the EFBWW

### EU initiative on minimum wages

The ETUC reply to the 2nd phase consultation on a possible European minimum wage initiative was adopted by the ETUC Executive Committee with 85% yes votes. In line with the EFBWW congress resolution and the position document on that matter and as discussed and decided by the Executive Committee, the EFBWW voted “abstention”. The ETUC press release on the outcome of the 2nd stage consultation can be found [here](#). The Commission proposal will be published in the coming weeks.

### EU Recovery Strategy

On 21 July 2020, the EU Council agreed on a comprehensive package of €1 824.3 billion which combines the €1 074.3 billion multiannual financial framework (MFF) and an extraordinary €750 billion recovery effort i.e. Next Generation EU (NGEU). The EFBWW prepared a detailed [analysis](#) of the EU recovery

strategy, insisting that funding must lead to productive investments in the building industry. Funding schemes must be transparent and should not lead to new austerity programs in member states. ETUC and ETUFs have also insisted that the Commission must be [clearer](#) on social fairness and just transition. At the request of national confederations and the European sectoral trade union federations, the ETUC set up an ad hoc working group to coordinate trade union responses.

### EFBWW participates in the Renovation Wave consultation

The European Commission opened a public consultation on boosting the renovation of buildings across the EU. The Renovation Wave’s goal is to increase the rate and quality of renovation of existing buildings thereby helping to decarbonise the building stock. The Commission will publish an action plan with concrete measures to deploy faster and deeper renovation in the third quarter of 2020. The Renovation Wave is a key

## EFBWW POSITION

**The EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL and needed actions for the building, wood, furniture and forestry and building materials industries.**



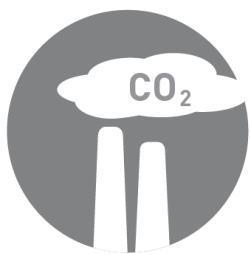
### Contents:

News from the EFBWW	1
Projects	3
News from the affiliates	4
Miscellaneous	6

priority file for the EFBWW. The EFBWW participated in the consultation and will continue to follow and influence the discussions fighting for good and decent jobs and tackling energy poverty.

### EFBWW will address cement sector in CBAM

On 23 July 2020, The European Commission launched a public consultation on a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) that aims



to maximise the impact of taxation in meeting the EU's climate goal.

This would ensure that the EU's green objectives are not undermined by relocating production to countries with less ambitious climate policies. The EFBWW provided feedback on the EC roadmap. A detailed questionnaire has been launched and remains open until 28th October. The EFBWW will prepare a detailed answer covering the cement and building materials sectors. On 7th October an "Online cement meeting" is planned, where CBAM will be discussed.

### Furniture Sector: Social Partner Statement on Digitalisation

The European Furniture Industries Confederation (EFIC) and the EFBWW issued joint [recommendations](#) on how to anticipate, design, and implement industrial change driven by digital transformation. Digitalisation will affect the work of every trade and profession. Companies and trade unions will work together and discuss the new demands as equal partners. The focus should be on restructuring and re-training measures and a range of safety nets; on a digitalisation strategy for micro and small enterprises, craftspeople and specialized professions; on mapping good practices and to provide social partners with orientations on the developments at company level.

### Coordination of social security systems ready before the end of 2020?

The German EU Council Presidency states that it wants to settle the file on the coordination of social security systems before December 2020. However, three major issues still need to be resolved: (1) the duration of unemployment benefits for

frontier workers; (2) the definition of pluriactivity; and (3) the prior notification and possible exemption in the case of posting. Meanwhile the EC prepared a new non-paper regarding the digitalisation of the Portable A1 Document (PDA1). The EFBWW informed the European Parliament and the Council of its discontent that the long-awaited European Social Security Number has disappeared from the discussions. The EFBWW insists that the Trilogue negotiations lead to a good deal, to better protection of posted workers and more tools for members states to fight cross-border fraud and social dumping.

### For a fast transposition of the posting of workers Directive

The EFBWW urged the European Commission to push for a fast and ambitious transposition of the Posting Workers Directive in all Member States. The transposition date was set at 30 July 2020, but 2 months after the deadline only 14 countries have notified the EC that they have transposed the Directive in national law. The EFBWW wants to exchange its views on how the Commission will ensure a compre-

**NO MORE BUSINESS AS USUAL**

**HEALTH BEFORE  
PROFIT!**

**ECONOMIC RECOVERY =  
SUSTAINABLE JOBS**

**BETTER PROTECTION  
FOR POSTED WORKERS!**

To know more about the 26 EFBWW demands, check [www.efbww.eu](http://www.efbww.eu)

hensive assessment of the national implementation of the Directive 2018/957. For this, the EFBWW asked to meet Labour commissioner Nicolas Schmit.

### For an inclusive State of the Union

On 16 September, EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen delivered her "State of the Union" speech. She mentioned that dumping wages destroy the dignity of work and fair competition and presented herself as a strong advocate of collective bargaining. Ursula von der Leyen also emphasised the EU recovery plan, digitalisation and the greening of the economy as a smart way out of the crisis and mentioned

the construction and related sectors as key industries to make this happen. The EFBWW welcomes these ambitions. However, the green and digital transition needs to be done in a just and inclusive way. The EFBWW insists that social partners at European and national level be actively involved in all stages of the initiatives. Ahead of the State of the Union the EFBWW launched its video on social dumping and sent in two video questions via social media. You can find the videos on the EFBWW [Facebook page](#).

### EFBWW-BWI reinforce cooperation

On 27 August the joint presidiums of EFBWW and BWI met online. It was

the first joint presidium meeting for the EFBWW presidium in its new composition since the General Assembly in November 2019. The joint presidium discussed the impact of COVID-19 in our industries at European and global level and the responses given by both Secretariats. Both presidiums reaffirmed the cooperation agreement and agreed on a calendar for joint activities in 2020-2021. The joint presidium decided to have regular online meetings. Ahead of the joint presidium meeting the EFBWW and BWI took the initiative to organise a joint staff meeting. After the "who is who", arrangements were made on how to further improve communication and cooperation.

## Projects

### EFBWW and FIEC united against undeclared work

The EFBWW and the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC) held a joint online conference on Undeclared work, with more than 200 participants. The event was part of the European week of action to

raise awareness about and promote the benefits of declared work:

**#EU4FairWork**. The e-conference is a starting point of a long-term commitment of the EFBWW and FIEC to tackle UDW in the construction industry. The social partners issued a joint statement with 10 concrete recommendations for tackling unde-

clared work and social fraud in construction, and a toolkit with practical examples on how to fight UDW at EU and at national level. Read them [here](#).



## EFBWW asks for a revision of the EWC Directive

The EFBWW participated in the event - "European Works Councils for fair restructuring", - organised by ETUC and ETUI. The EWC members reported about examples of good practices during COVID-19, but also cases of what not to do, where workers were not informed nor consulted by the companies, where the information only circulated from top to bottom, and where no virtual discussion means were provided. The EFBWW argues that COVID-19 is no excuse to breach EWC agreements and asks for a revision of the EWC

Directive. Management must be obliged to full consultation of EWCs on all decisions, and dissuasive sanctions are needed for those MNCs who do not comply.

## Debating Bolster Up 2

The final online conference of the "Bolster Up 2" project took place on 29 September. The project aims to foster cooperation between stakeholders in the furniture and wood industry at national and European level and to debate core qualifications and VET-structures in the industry. Participants discussed the



impact of new technologies in these professions and the possibility of tailoring education and training at a European level. Also, the idea to set up a European exchange and internship to promote the mobility of students and worker was discussed.

[More info](#)

## News from our affiliates

### UK



#### Gail Cartmail TUC president



Gail Cartmail was elected as the Trade Unions Congress President for 2020/21. Gail is Unite assistant general secretary and will serve in the role for a year and preside over the next TUC Congress in September 2021. She will also chair the TUC's general council and executive committee. Gail Cartmail announced her two priorities: to encourage more women to become active in their trade unions and to promote the importance of young people in the workplace and help them become active in their unions.

[More info](#)

### Germany



#### IG BAU accepts new collective agreement

IG Bauen-Agrar-Umwelt (IG BAU) accepted the arbitrator's ruling on the collective bargaining round for the construction industry. Construction workers will get more money. Among other aspects, the agreement provides for: a wage increase of 2.6 % in the West and 2.7 % in the East, a symbolic bonus to cover travel time, and a "Corona bonus" of 500 euros as a one-off tax-free special payment.

[More info](#)

### Denmark



#### 3F organises demonstration

Together with other unions, 3F organised a demonstration with some 100 workers, demanding an agreement on the Fehmarn project. Since February, the unions have been negotiating a wage and working conditions agreement with the two Dutch contractors Van Oord Dredging and Boskalis International, which form the FBC consortium. The FBC demanded working hours, which are completely outside the Danish regulations. 30-35 employees of the Dutch contractors are working for up to 28 days in a row for 12 consecutive hours on the Fehmarn project.

[More info](#)



## Ireland



### SIPTU calls for strike

The members of SIPTU Construction voted for industrial action if employers fail to pay a 2.7% increase due on 1st October 2020. SIPTU Sector Organiser, John Regan said: "Under the existing Sectoral Employment Orders (SEO) for Construction, a pay increase of 2.7% is due to be paid on 1 October 2020. Employers are required to pay this increase and a failure to do so will be a breach of the SEO and of the law as it stands".

[More info](#)

## Poland



### Budowlani re-elects

#### Zbigniew Janowski as president

Budowlani held its 10th Congress, where Zbigniew Janowski was re-elected as the president of the union. The congress chose a 45-person National Council, a 15-person Board and a 10-person Audit Committee. The 2020-25 Activity Program and 9 resolutions were adopted.

## Italy



### Filca-Cisl obtains additional benefits for workers

Filca-Cisl continues to monitor all workplaces (building sites, quarries, wood, cement and building materials companies) to ensure that the

anti-COVID legislation is being respected. The union obtained additional benefits for workers who are forced to stay home. The extension of the layoffs fund and the ban on dismissal workers will be kept until the end of 2020. Filca-Cisl claims that the sector is experiencing a very slight recovery.

## Spain



### CCOO: COVID-19 cannot be an excuse to empty collective agreements

CCOO wants to ensure that collective agreements and collective bargaining are not emptied of content by the economic situation and by attitudes of employers who seek to use the health crisis to reverse conditions in a labour market that is already precarious. With COVID-19, CCOO's priorities have changed and the aims now are the protection of the most disadvantaged groups. It is vital to develop protocols that ensure workers' health or minimize the risk of contagion in construction, where there is a large influx of workers in limited spaces.

### UGT-FICA wants COVID-19 to be considered as an occupational disease

To address the COVID-19 challenges, UGT-FICA demands the extension of the Record of Temporary Employ-

ment Regulation (ERTE) in all sectors without distinction for the duration of the pandemic. Within the ERTes, the trade union asked the Government not to reduce the benefits that the affected workers currently receive. UGT-FICA also wants the creation of a law that contemplates teleworking and its inclusion within collective bargaining in sectoral agreements. In addition, COVID-19 must be considered as an occupational disease.

## Sweden



### Byggnads warns: new collective bargaining agreements are not in place

The negotiations of new CBA agreements, which were to end in April, have been postponed until October 2020. Byggnads underlines that the new agreements are not in place. The main demands are actions to end social dumping, to improve health and safety in the construction industry and to increase pensions. The Swedish trade union also demands a 3% wage increase. At high level Ministerial meetings, Byggnads emphasized the importance of the construction industry for the recovery and insisted on more investments in infrastructure and renovation, more resources for training and a permanent increase of the unemployment benefits insurance.

In this section the EFBWW gives the possibility to its affiliates to share their stories.

If you have news or contributions, do not hesitate to contact [pcravina@efbww.eu](mailto:pcravina@efbww.eu).

## Miscellaneous

### ILO organises new courses

The ILO International Training Centre will organise several courses in the field of Social Dialogue, Industrial Relations and Labour Inspection in 2020 and early 2021. The courses include an E-learning course on Labour Inspection, a Diploma in Industrial and Employment Relations, among others.

[More info](#)

### ETUI/ ETUC/ELW debate the impact of digitalisation on labour

The European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), the European Lawyers Network for Workers (ELW) and the ETUC, with the support of the European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and Human Rights, will organize a series of webinars on "Labour Law in the Digitalisation Era". The first conference will take place on 15 and 16 October 2020.

[More info](#)

### ETUC organises conference on Decent Work for Youth

On 7 October, on the occasion of the International Day of Decent Work, the ETUC will organise an online public event to insist that Decent Work must be a key principle in all recovery and investment plans. The ETUC insists that the creation of quality jobs must be the top priority and demands binding quality criteria for jobs under the Youth Guarantee as well as universal access of young people to social protection.

[Register here](#)

## EFBWW Meeting schedule

1 October	EFBWW presidium meeting	Videoconference
5 October	S&H Coordination Group	Videoconference
7 October	Cement meeting	Videoconference
16 October	Social dialogue Wood and Furniture: WP VET & OSH	Videoconference
19 October	Standing Committee Building	Videoconference
21 October	WP Asbestos	Videoconference
22 October	EFBWW Strategic group	Videoconference
27 October	Social dialogue Construction – WP Safety and Health	Videoconference
28 October	EWC coordinators meeting	Videoconference
24 November	Executive Committee	Videoconference
3 December	DESOCO - Employment	Videoconference
4 December	OSH Open expert meeting on Asbestos and Skin cancer	Videoconference
15 December 2020	Due diligence project seminar	Videoconference

**Disclaimer:** The calendar dates remain to be confirmed. The EFBWW Secretariat continues to closely monitor the situation linked to the COVID-19 situation. The EFBWW Presidium will decide and inform affiliates in due time on the status of meetings.