



EFBWW NEWSLETTER

News from the EFBWW

EMPL MEPs ready to protect workers from asbestos!

Now it is time for the European Parliament and Commission to do the same!

The EFBWW welcomes that the EMPL Committee called – by a large majority - for a concrete asbestos Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) of 1000 fibres/m³ in the vote on the legislative report on Protecting Workers from Asbestos (the “Villumsen report”). The EFBWW now calls on the European Parliament (EP) to swiftly adopt the legislative report in plenary and on the Commission to make legislative proposals in line with the EP demands. EFBWW general secretary, Tom Deleu: “This is a very important first victory for all the construction workers, firefighters, miners, and workers in cleaning or waste disposal, who are regularly exposed to asbestos. The deadly heritage of asbestos and cancer



cannot be disregarded. We are pleased that the MEPs in the EMPL Committee are ready to protect workers from asbestos.” More [info](#).

Challenges of the Renovation Wave in Central and Eastern European Countries

On 14th September, the EFBWW and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung organised a webinar on Challenges of the Renovation Wave in Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs). Four case studies were presented: on prefabricated construction (Croatia), VET training for NZEB (Romania), energy efficiency programmes (Bulgaria), and low carbon construction (Poland). The EFBWW, in cooperation with members from the CEEC region, is planning to prepare a specific strategy on the Renovation Wave in CEECs to help define priorities.

Building performance - win-win for climate and EU Commission?

The EFBWW published an opinion article in EU Observer on the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (EPBD). We explain why the revision of the EPBD can be a win-win situation for the climate and the European Commission with the right amount of political will and ambition. Many regard Fit for 55 as the ultimate moment for the European climate and energy policy. However, there might be reason to wait just a little longer, as the revision of the EPBD, perhaps the most crucial piece of legislation, will be launched in the autumn. In case you missed it, read our article [here](#).

EFBWW Open Expert Meeting on Occupational Safety and Health

The EFBWW OSH experts, participating in the annual open expert meeting on 2nd September, discussed three main issues which the EFBWW is following and pushing for in the field of workers' protection. 1/ The EP rapporteur for the asbestos report, Nikolaj

Contents:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| News from the EFBWW | 1 - 2 |
| Projects | 3 |
| News from the affiliates | 4 - 5 |
| Miscellaneous | 6 |
| Calendar | 7 |

Villumsen (Danish MEP from the GUE group), presented the draft EP-Report and its possible legal and general political effects. 2/ Jointly with representatives from the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), the participants talked about the perspectives of a joint campaign for the transformation of the European list of occupational diseases from a Recommendation into a Directive. The discussion focused on the historical steps of the EU's policy in this field as well as on our legal argumentation why such a transformation is needed and possible. 3/ The New EU Strategic Framework on occupational safety and health was the last topic. The OSH Coordination group was busy drafting a position paper regarding the new framework.

place with representatives of the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS), the International Commission of Occupational



Health (ICOH) and the European Commission. The EFBWW explained its demand for the inclusion of all types of work-related skin cancer in the European List of Occupational Diseases and why a revision of the EU-Directive on the protection of workers against the exposure to artificial radiation is needed, in order to include UV-Radiation in this Directive.

resolution is currently under negotiation and will be voted end October/beginning November. At the same time, the EC has started a new pilot project for a [European Social Security Pass](#) with the aim to use blockchain technology for the identification of mobile workers and the verification of their status and rights. The project has just started, and it is still unclear if it will lead to the introduction of an ESSN in the EU and if it will be functional.

Together with FIEC, the EFBWW has started a number of initiatives in this regard. In a joint statement of June 2021 the [EU construction social partners call for digital enforcement](#). We will also jointly organise a morning briefing with Members of the European Parliament on new digital tools. The event will take place online on 13 October 2021 from 8:30 to 9:30. See invitation and agenda on [page 7](#).

**No right vs left this time!
Vote for zero cancer!**

Vote for 1000 fibres/m³

Conference: Work-related skin cancer must be in the European List of Occupational Diseases

Occupational Skin Cancer & UV Protection at the Workplace was the subject of a workshop on the 5th International UV and Skin Cancer Prevention Virtual Conference, which took place on 7 – 9 September 2021. A round table took

EFBWW is working on digital tools

The EFBWW, together with the ETUC and the ETUFs, published a [joint call for action](#) to introduce new digital tools for enforcing mobile workers' rights in the Internal Market. This call resulted in discussions in the European institutions on a number of new instruments.

A draft [European Parliament resolution](#) calls once more on the European Commission (EC) to introduce a European Social Security Number (ESSN) for real-time enforcement and for a European Personal Labour Card. The

Projects

FELM project

On 22 September the joint social partner project with FIEC on third-country companies and workers entitled “FELM - Better Functioning of the European Construction Labour Market” started with the first steering group meeting. The EFBWW’s aim is to defend good working conditions, equal treatment, the enforcement of existing rights, and the sharpening of the EU legal framework in favour of all workers no matter what their origin is. In this joint project with FIEC, the EFBWW has the lead in the implementation. The project will be implemented with the help of the UN-affiliated European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. The project will have a close look at the numbers of third-country workers on the EU construction labour market, where they come from and where they go, how they are posted within the EU, and what the underlying trends are to anticipate future developments. This is important to have an empirical basis for the discussions on a revision of the EU migratory legal framework, possible new rules on labour only suppliers, the implementation of the posting and the enforcement directive, and the protection of social benefit entitlements under the social security regulation and other legislation. Besides the empirical

study including a number of case studies, the project is also aiming for a joint social partner recommendation.

Join Construction Blueprint LinkedIn group

The EFBWW, together with EBC and FIEC are responsible for the deployment of the Blueprint project deliverables. We highly recommend our members to register on the [Construction Blueprint LinkedIn group](#) to further follow the latest news on the project. Not many trade unions have registered yet. All your support is needed to take the Blueprint project to the next level!

EFBWW and affiliates launch the distribution of the ECMIN cards



On 27 September, the EFBWW and its affiliates launched the distribution of the European Construction Mobility Information Network (ECMIN) cards. These cards are the shape and size of a bank card and contain both a link and a QR code to the www.constructionworkers.eu website. The information on the



back is available in many languages, including Arabic. The goal of this campaign is to distribute the cards among migrant and posted workers to make them aware of the website. The website provides concise information on wages, working conditions and rights of construction workers for all the European Countries in all the European languages. Construction workers can find useful links and contacts of trade union representatives ready to help and support them in case of need. The website can be a very powerful tool against labour exploitation. More [info](#).



News from our affiliates

Belgium



FGTB takes the streets and demands the revision of the 1996 law

On Friday 24 September, the FGTB organised a national demonstration in Brussels to demand a thorough revision of the law that sets the wage margin (known as the 1996 law). More than 15,000 activists responded to the call. The law that sets the wage margin prevents unions from negotiating the legitimate share of workers' wages and blocks any substantial increase, supposedly to preserve the competitiveness of Belgian companies. The FGTB warns that without the revision of the 1996 law, no interprofessional agreement (AIP) will be possible. More [info](#).



Austria



GBH reaches CBAs with increases between 1.8 and 2.1%

In Austria, the collective bargaining negotiations in 2021 were dominated by the corona pandemic.

With an average inflation rate of less than 1.3%, the Gewerkschaft Bau Holz (GBH) was able to achieve agreements with raises between 1.8 and 2.1%. In addition, in 20 collective agreements covering 237,600 employees, December 24th and 31st will be paid and work-free. Biannual contracts were achieved in most sectors, with wages increasing by the rate of inflation plus 0.5 to 0.7% in the second year. More [info](#).

Romania



FGS Familia congress elects Gheorghe Balaceanu for president

The 8th Congress of FGS Familia took place in Eforie Nord on 6-9 September. The Congress was held under the slogan "Together we build

the future of work!" The strategy of the organisation for the next four years was established, and the new leadership was elected: Gheorghe Balaceanu was elected president, and Ramona Veleanu vice-president. Catalin Cîrnei is

the general secretary, and Ilie Bira the federal secretary construction.

Sweden



Byggnads wins in labour court

A new ruling from the Labour Court states that Byggnads did not commit

unlawful industrial action when it called on companies to terminate their agreements with the company PME. An investigation showed that PME AB was guilty of several breaches of the collective agreement. Among other things, their Polish subcontractor paid salaries of only SEK 25 per hour after tax. Byggnads then requested the member companies in the industry and employer organisation Byggföretagen, which had hired PME as a subcontractor, to terminate their contract agreements with the company – which was done. This led PME to sue Byggnads in the labour court for unauthorized industrial action. A lawsuit that has now been rejected by the labour court. "We can and must use all available means to prevent rogue companies from operating in our industry. The Labour Court clearly shows that we have full right to apply the tools contained in our collective agreements, says the contract secretary of Byggnads, Torbjörn Hagelin. More [info](#).

Switzerland



Unia is organising training in Portugal and Spain for construction workers

At the beginning of next year, Unia will organise eight-week training courses in Porto, Lisbon and

Santiago de Compostela. From 3 January to 25 February 2022, Portuguese and Spanish bricklayers with practical experience on construction sites in Switzerland can attend a training course in their native language during the winter months, which will enable them to be allocated to wage group A. Registration for the course is based on a certificate from the employer, who thus guarantees that those registered will remain in employment. The deadline for registration is Tuesday 2 November 2021. The Parifonds Construction covers the course costs and a daily flat rate for loss of earnings. More [info](#)

Germany

IG BAU protects workers from too much heat

If the weather is bad or too cold, there are regulations to protect workers. But what if it is too hot? IG BAU has a new approach to handle the consequences of climate change through collective bargaining. IG BAU has a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for roofers fixing compensation if work cannot be done because of heat and too much sun. This is a major achievement to protect the health of workers and adapt to climate change with a sector specific solution. The

mechanism is in place since June 2020. IG BAU's first assessment shows that after 12 months already around 5,000 companies with around 27,000 workers have used the new instrument. More [info](#).

Italy

Italian unions launch vaccination campaign

Feneal Uil, Filca Cisl and Fillea Cgil have launched a joint campaign in support of vaccination against Covid-19. The campaign, called #Antivirus, will enter all wood, cement, brick and stone factories, offices and construction sites to encourage workers to get vaccinated. The unions developed a leaflet in which they explain that the vaccination is essential "to reduce contagion and immunise safely; to protect from the disease, its possible serious health effects and its consequences over time (the so-called 'long-covid')". The initiative is also designed to dismantle the fake news about the vaccine. Trade unions want the subject to be discussed in the workplace, involving bilateral bodies, doctors, experts, and convincing people to get vaccinated. More [info](#).

PERCHÉ VACCINARSI CONTRO IL COVID-19?

- per ridurre il contagio ed immunizzarsi in sicurezza
- per proteggersi dalla malattia, dal suo eventuale decorso grave e dalle conseguenze nel tempo (il cosiddetto "long-covid")
- per difendere la nostra salute e quella di chi ci sta intorno, a partire dalle persone più fragili e da chi non può vaccinarsi
- per favorire il ripristino delle libertà della vita quotidiana e scongiurare ulteriori chiusure delle attività produttive, delle scuole, etc.

LA VACCINAZIONE ANTI-COVID-19 PROTEGGE DAL VIRUS!
Attualmente è la migliore strategia, insieme alle regole di igiene e di comportamento, per contenere il coronavirus e ridurre il numero di decessi gravi e di decessi.

Più persone sono vaccinate, meno il virus circola e meno persone si ammalano e muoiono di Coronavirus.

Mascherine, igiene, distanziamento, protocolli sindacali anti-covid, vaccinazione: queste sono le nostre 5 armi per fermare la pandemia e diventare tutti insieme e ciascuno di noi - il più potente degli

#ANTIVIRUS

PARLIAMONE NEI POSTI DI LAVORO, COINVOLGENDO ENTI BILATERALI, MEDICI, ESPERTI

Campagna Nazionale Feneal Filca Fillea a sostegno della vaccinazione contro il Covid-19

FENEALUIL FILCA CISL FILLEA CGIL

«Chi limita oggi la nostra libertà è il virus, non gli strumenti e le regole per sconfiggerlo.»
Sergio Mattarella

FALSI MITI SUI VACCINI
A CURA DELL'ISTITUTO SUPERIORE SANITÀ

COVID-19 FALSI MITI SUI VACCINI
SONO SPERIMENTALI
NO. I vaccini hanno superato tutti i passaggi della sperimentazione necessaria per l'immersione in commercio senza rischiare alcuna. Il processo di sviluppo ha subito un'accelerazione senza precedenti a livello globale ma al momento della loro autorizzazione da parte dell'Agenzia Europea per i Farmaci erano stati percorsi tutti le stesse tappe dell'iter di sperimentazione previsto per gli altri vaccini in commercio.

COVID-19 FALSI MITI SUI VACCINI
PROVOCANO L'INFEZIONE
NO. I vaccini in uso sono la tecnologia a mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech e Moderna) e a vettore virale (Janssen e Johnson). Si introducono nell'organismo le istruzioni per produrre l'antigene della proteina che il virus usa per agganciare la cellula. Quindi non viene attivata il DNA. Con il virus iniettato, una eventuale malattia COVID-19 deriverebbe dalla vaccinazione più ancora quella causata da una infezione naturale del virus contratto indipendentemente dal vaccino.

COVID-19 FALSI MITI SUI VACCINI
I VACCINATI SONO CONTAGIOSI
NO. Come per tutti i vaccini esistenti, l'efficacia è anche nei malati alla non è del 100%, e comunque essere questi cosiddetti "vaccinati casuali" non si rivelerà un oggetto responsabile di più diffusione del virus. Un livello di efficacia della popolazione che nella popolazione esistente il livello di trasmissione tra individui non è sufficiente.

COVID-19 FALSI MITI SUI VACCINI
NON SI CONOSCONO GLI EFFETTI A BREVE E LUNGO TERMINE
NON È VERO. Il sistema di farmacovigilanza è costituito da tutti gli enti farmaci e vaccini già approvati. Dopo i risultati degli studi sono stati in corso di migliaia di milioni di persone, vengono monitorati le segnalazioni delle agenzie regolatorie nazionali e internazionali di possibili eventi avversi a lungo termine con i dati con la vaccinazione. Se vengono osservati eventi avversi non attribuiti ai dati degli studi autorizzati, vengono aggiunti all'elenco delle reazioni avverse all'interazione tra le informazioni che vengono poi monitorate.

PARLIAMONE NEI POSTI DI LAVORO, COINVOLGENDO ENTI BILATERALI, MEDICI, ESPERTI

Campagna Nazionale Feneal Filca Fillea a sostegno della vaccinazione contro il Covid-19

FENEALUIL FILCA CISL FILLEA CGIL

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.

Miscellaneous

EPSU/ETUC vs ECJ decision: a worrying sign for social dialogue

The Court of Justice of the European Union released its verdict on the case the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) brought against the European Commission (case C-928/19P). A very disappointing, destabilising and disturbing decision. The case concerned the Commission's unprecedented refusal to bring forward a social partner agreement to the Council for decision based on the interpretation of Article 155.2 TFEU. The EFBWW shares the view of [ETUC](#) and is very worried that the process by which European trade unions and employers get their agreements recognised in EU law has been thrown into doubt. As [EPSU](#) puts it, this challenges the

autonomy of social partners and leaves them in legal uncertainty regarding their future agreements. The EFBWW general secretary, Tom Deleu: "The process is a very troubling sign about the importance given by the European Commission and by the European Court of Justice to the social dialogue and to European workers' rights". We urge the EC to ensure that the Social Partner Agreements will continue to be put forward in a predictable way and be adopted as EU Directives. More [info](#).

Holy union? The sectoral social partners and the Covid 19 crisis in Europe

The European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) published the study: Holy union? The sectoral social partners

and the Covid 19 crisis in Europe. ETUI tries to answer the key question: has European social dialogue played any useful part in this exceptional economic and social situation? The role of social partners is central in the Covid era when no country and sector was spared to an economic standstill. Governments have stepped up their emergency measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus: locking down populations, closing non-essential businesses, offices, factories, schools, suspending sports contests and festivals; restricting people's movements, closing or monitoring borders, grounding airlines and more. More [info](#).

EFBWW Meeting schedule 2021-2022

| | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| 6 October 2021 | SD Construction - working group OSH | Videoconference |
| 7 October 2021 | EFBWW Standing Committee Wood | Videoconference |
| 15 October 2021 | SD Wood-Furniture WP | Videoconference |
| 25-26 October 2021 | EFBWW Presidium | Hybrid meeting |
| 27 October 2021 | EFBWW EWC Coordinators' Meeting | Videoconference |
| 28-29 October 2021 | BWI European regional Committee | |
| 29 October 2021 | EFBWW Standing Committee Building | Videoconference |
| 24 November 2021 | EFBWW Executive Committee | Videoconference |
| December 2021 | DESOCO project - Thematic Meeting EMPLOYMENT | Videoconference |
| Spring 2022 - TBC | Joint EFBWW-BWI MNC Conference | TBC |
| TBC | BWI-EFBWW joint conference on women in trade | TBC |
| 18 January 2022 | RCS project - final conference | TBC |
| 23-24 March 2022 | Lafarge Holcim Network meeting | TBC |
| 23-24 March 2022 | Seminar project SUSODCO | TBC |



Guests:
MEP Nikolaj Villumsen (LEFT)
MEP Jeroen Lenaers (EPP)
Labour inspector, Belgium

TOWARDS DIGITAL ENFORCEMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY?

OCTOBER 13, 2021
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
ONLINE




Agenda:

1. Welcome - Joël Schons, Vice-President FIEC
2. Challenges - Labour Inspector, Belgium
3. EP report
 - MEP Nikolaj Villumsen (LEFT), rapporteur
 - MEP Jeroen Lenaers (EPP), shadow rapporteur
4. Social partners' positions
 - Tom Deleu, GS EFBWW
 - Domenico Campogrande, DG FIEC
5. Open discussion
6. Conclusions - Johan Lindholm, President EFBWW



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Online discussion on the EP report on a European Social Security Number and a European Personal Labour Card