



Antwerp: EFBWW expresses condolences to families

The EFBWW learned the shocking and sad news about five construction workers killed and nine injured in the collapse of a building in Antwerp. Firstly, we want to express our condolences to the families concerned and wish a speedy recovery to the workers injured. Secondly, we support the demand of our Belgian affiliates, ACV BIE and CG FGTB, for a thorough investigation capable of answering all the questions about the incident. Thirdly, we urge the European organisations, the national governments and all the authorities involved to improve safety on construction sites to better protect migrant workers and adopt stricter rules for subcontracting companies.

We have heard this story one too many times. In this case, the workers came from Portugal, Romania, and Ukraine, all of them working for companies in subcontracting chains, the main contractor being a Belgian company.

The criminal investigation is already underway. Many questions arise: what went wrong? Were all the safety and health measures being respected and implemented? What was the workers' status? How was the subcontracting chain composed? What kind of support and protection do those workers and families have? Who will be responsible for them?

These questions cannot be left unanswered. The company and social security must take care of the workers and their families. The investigation must be carried out in total transparency and in perfect collaboration between all the companies involved and the authorities. The EFBWW will support Belgian trade unions and workers in all that is needed. We, as a society, cannot leave these workers and families behind.

It is, unfortunately, a situation that we see too often. We all know the reality of migrant workers and the worrying trend of more [3rd country national workers](#) finding themselves in a very precarious situation.

We cannot accept this. Life must come before profit! We have to break the endless subcontracting chains and ban intermediaries in posting!

We want no less than full protection and equal treatment for all workers in construction!