



# EFBWW NEWSLETTER

## News from the EFBWW

### EFBWW re-submits ten cases and welcomes new ELA director

On the first anniversary of the European Labour Authority (ELA) – on 16 October – the EFBWW expressed its concerns about the ten cases of exploitation of posted workers submitted to ELA on 16 October 2019 together with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). As these cases have not been solved, the EFBWW [re-submitted](#) them. On 22 October, Marius Cosmin Boiangiu was appointed as the ELA executive director. The EFBWW [congratulates](#) and welcomes the new director. We are looking forward to work closely and to cooperate with Mr. Boiangiu. The EFBWW has high expectations and strongly supports the ELA objectives of strengthening workers' rights. We are willing and want to be involved in achieving this goal, so that workers are better protected.

### CBAM is needed, but it has to be well designed

The EFBWW affiliates representing the workers from the cement and building materials industries discussed the proposed creation of a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). CBAM is one of the proposals of the European Commission within the European Green Deal (EGD). Energy intensive industries, such as cement and building materials, play an important role in CO2 emissions and thus risk to be seriously impacted by the EGD. The EFBWW is convinced however that there is a bright and greener future for these industries. Nevertheless, we [warn](#) that CBAM needs to be well designed, including effective monitoring and sanction mechanisms to avoid carbon leakage. The EFBWW calls on the industry to take its ecological and social responsibility to safeguard good jobs in the EU.

### Women's Network launches questionnaire on good practises

The Women's Network is preparing a new questionnaire to be officially launched at the next Executive Committee meeting on 24th November. The questionnaire will concentrate on existing good practices and on articles in general agreements and sectorial collective agreements that address different



gender aspects. The idea is to collect existing best practices related to different women's needs. The overall aim of the questionnaire is to create a manual that could be a helpful tool for negotiators during the collective agreement negotiations. Currently, the EFBWW works on the design of the questionnaire and the next Women's Network meeting will be consulted for feedback.

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The EFBWW [welcomes](#) the withdrawal by the European Commission of the proposal for a European services e-card for the construction industry. We are happy that the proposal is finally off the EC's agenda. The EC admitted that there was "no foreseeable agreement", because "no progress has been made by the co-legislators since 2018 and further progress is unlikely." The services e-card is not



proposal on mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence obligations for EU companies. This binding legislative proposal for a European due diligence will affect the construction, building materials and wood sectors of the EFBWW significantly. A crucial factor for the EFBWW is to clearly distinguish mandatory due diligence from a mandatory joint and several liability scheme or joint responsibility. The EFBWW is preparing a position paper to be adopted by the Executive Committee in November.



## Projects

### Train the Trainer seminar on Formaldehyde

The EFBWW and the European Wood-Based Panels Federation (EPF) organise a joint online “Train the Trainer Seminar” on Thursday 19 November 2020. This seminar is the first event in the EC financed project to stimulate the adoption and implementation of EFBWW & EPF’s joint voluntary agreement

entitled “Action Guide on Formaldehyde”. The target group consists of company health and safety experts, social partners from sectoral organisations and company level, and institutes for OEL measurements who will be involved in related activities at

national and company level in a later phase. Register [here](#) before 10 November.



## News from our affiliates

### Slovakia



#### IOZ fights against government measures that reduce workers' rights

The Integrated Trade Union (IOZ) warns that the situation in Slovakia is deteriorating every day, with hundreds of new cases of COVID-19. IOZ and the Confederation of Trade Unions of the Slovak Republic (KOZ SR) are pushing the government to take

measures to eliminate the economic impacts of COVID-19. Emphasis must be on the protection of public health, job retention, assistance to employees who do not work as a result of the measures, and compensation for loss of income. Since September 2020, IOZ and KOZ SR have organised demonstrations against government bills that significantly reduce wages and have a negative impact on the rights of employees and trade unions. If the gov-

ernment does not take positive steps, the trade unions in Slovakia are determined to continue their struggle.



### Czech Republic



#### OS Stavba focuses on CBAs

The Czech Trade Union of Building Workers (OS Stavba) is working to conclude collective agreements in individual companies where trade unions operate. The aim is to maintain the real value of wages and strengthen benefits. The union also wants to conclude the Collective Agreement Supplement for 2021 to maintain the fair value of the minimum wage tariffs with the aim of achieving a faster convergence of the wage level within the EU countries. In the context of COVID-19, one of OS Stavba’s main priorities is ensuring safe and non-hazardous work. In parallel with the pandemic, the European Green Deal is another



challenge identified. OS Stavba wants to ensure fair conditions, especially for the cement industry, but also for building materials industries and the conventional construction industry.

## Latvia

### More members and collective agreements on the year of 30 anniversary

2020 marks the 30th anniversary of the Forest Sphere Trade Union of Latvia (LMNA). One of the priorities in this celebration year is to increase the number of members. The trade union recognises that this is essential to “strengthen its capacity to conclude quality collective agreements”, and crucial to “discuss collective agreements in the sector as a strong and equal social partner”. Besides the members and the new and existing collective agreements, the consequences of the pandemic are also closely monitored. The Latvian trade union is following the decisions led by the government and employers and the conditions of their members in companies.



### For new minimum rules in the construction sector

The Latvian Building Sector Trade Union (LBNA) continues to work on the application of the Generally Binding Collective Agreement and the introduction of new minimum rules through the General Agreement in the construction sector. LBNA will focus on consulting members and the branch unions within the workplace on questions regarding labour rights and workplace safety and will support the branch union within the workplace in attracting new members. LBNA will also prioritise the creation of informative and educational materials about the trade union and its work.

## Bulgaria



### FCIW-PODKREPA focuses on CBAs and campaign on undeclared work

The construction, industry and water supply federation (FCIW-PODKREPA) is negotiating a new collective agreement for the construction sector. In this regard, they are focused on increasing the minimum wages in different categories of labour, in including texts for trade union participation in the application of measures and prevention of COVID-19; and in improving

working conditions during a pandemic - ensuring additional personal protective equipment, additional leave, etc. Besides these priorities, FCIW is preparing a campaign on the harms of undeclared work under the TUVIC project. The campaign aims to reach young workers entering the labour market, as well as those re-training to work in the construction sector.

## UK



### Unite prepares actions against Amey

Unite is preparing to [challenge](#) Amey's union busting industrially, legally and politically. The problems between the two parties relate to a highway management contract, which was awarded to the construction giant in 2019. The company is attempting to end the union recognition on the contract, reduce the number of elected workplace representatives and it began to attack working conditions. Unite regional co-ordinating officer Andy Fisher said that “industrial action would be the last resort and would not be entered into lightly as it will cause incredible disruption across the North West”. “However, Amey needs to understand that Unite will not allow its members to be treated in this manner”.

## Norway



### Fellesforbundet webinar on social dumping

The Norwegian trade union Fellesforbundet organised a webinar on social dumping. The central subject was how trade unions and national and local governments can stop social dumping and work-related crime.



Fellesforbundet general secretary, Steinar Krogstad, explained that “more than 40 % of turnover in building and construction comes from public procurement. In this context, Fellesforbundet and The Federation of Norwegian Construction Industries (BNL) agreed to get obligatory social requirements into public procurement”, i.e. a minimum of 50% of hours worked must be performed by skilled workers; a minimum of 10% apprentices on the contracts in areas with a need for apprentices; a

maximum of two subcontractors in the vertical supply chain. Since 2015, more than 180 municipalities have introduced regulations as recommended by the social partners. The experiences from the municipalities show that the regulations lead to less social dumping and work-related crime.

## Italy



### Feneal Uil, Filca Cisl, Fillea Cgil renew national agreement for wood furnishings

The Italian trade unions Feneal Uil, Filca Cisl, Fillea Cgil signed an agreement renewing the national agreement for wood furnishings, which expired more than a year and a half ago. The signature came after long and complex negotiations and will affect 150 000 employees and will be in force until 31 December 2022. In February 2020 the EFBWW sent a [solidarity letter](#) to support the general strike in the wood and furniture industry. More [info](#).

## Finland



### Teollisuusliitto condemns FFIF exit from collective bargaining

The Finnish Forest Industries Federation (FFIF) renounced collective bargaining and social dialogue in the wood and forestry industries. This decision will have an enormous negative impact on the country's labour market and leave about 10,000 workers unprotected. This is a major step backwards for workers' rights. The Finnish Industrial Union (Teollisuusliitto) says that “the unilateral exit announcement from FFIF came as a surprise, although there have been signs of this for some time”. The president of the Industrial Union, Riku Aalto, stated that “it is really unfortunate that FFIF is embarking on a path that is eroding the Finnish labour market system”. More [info](#).

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).

## 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)

## Miscellaneous

### ETUI organises conference on the Social Pillar

ETUI is organising an online conference on “New beginnings? The European Pillar of Social Rights and the new Commission”. The event will take place on 16 November and aims to provide a multidimensional analysis of the Social Pillar. You can register and find the agenda [here](#).

### ETUC for a People's Recovery

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) launched the campaign for a [People's Recovery](#). The initiative will focus on influencing the two main stages of the EU Recovery Plan: the legislative package



for the Recovery Plan and the MFF and the design and implementation of investments and reforms, which will put the recovery plan into practice, particularly at national level. The EFBWW has contributed actively in the preparation and set-up of this campaign and the specific demands.

### ILO publishes study on how social dialogue is making a difference during the pandemic

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) launched a [study](#) about social dialogue during the COVID-19 pandemic. The new study shows that most of the ILO member States made extensive use of "peak-level" social dialogue to shape emergency measures for mitigating the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## EFBWW Meeting schedule

19 November	Train the Trainer Seminar - Formaldehyde social partner project	Videoconference
24 November	Executive Committee	Videoconference
3 December	E-workshop - Presence of third country national workers and	Videoconference
4 December	Sectoral Social Dialogue Construction - Employment WG	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.