



EFBWW NEWSLETTER

News from the EFBWW



Motion: Enough is enough!

The EFBWW, with the support of ETUC, sent an emergency motion - *Enough is Enough! Safe and healthy workplaces for all workers!* - to the European Commission, the European Labour Authority (ELA), the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. The motion was adopted following the tragic accident in Antwerp on 18 June that killed five construction workers and left nine others severely injured. We call for the regulation of subcontracting chains, for the adoption of digital tools to

monitor the presence of workers and self-employed on construction sites, and for better safety and health measures. More [info](#).

Construction 2050 Alliance insists on increasing attractiveness of construction industry

EFBWW, as a member of the Construction 2050 Alliance, participated in the high-level webinar on 1 July to promote jobs in the construction industry. At the webinar, the construction industry was presented as the solution industry, central in the twin transition ahead of us: the digitalization and greening of the economy. Confronted with a growing shortage of skilled labour, the Construction 2050 Alliance made a strong plea to attract more young and female workers to join the industry. At the webinar, cases and good experiences were presented as a way to show also the "other side of the industry": green, young, dynamic, digital, female. Gunde Odgaard, chair of the Standing Committee Building, confirmed that this is a part of the reality in construction today, but he

pointed out that another reality is more prevalent in the industry. He referred to the Antwerp accident and regretted that today many construction companies chose social dumping and prefer to exploit unskilled and cheap labour. He insisted that we need productive investments in attractive, quality jobs for all. Employers need to make a positive choice. He insisted that trade unions on national and European level are working very hard on these topics and that they are available to continue to discuss these matters in the social dialogue. More [info](#).

EFBWW will closely monitor EC infringement procedures

The EFBWW and its affiliates will closely monitor the infringement procedures of the European Commission (EC) against 24 Member States (MS) "who failed to implement the Posting Enforcement Directive properly". We support EC procedures against those Member States that are not ambitious (enough) in the transposition of the Enforcement Directive. However, we strongly

Contents:

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

condemn any EC attack against MS that provide new, efficient and effective enforcement tools to fight cross-border social fraud and protect posted workers. It is of utmost importance to ensure that the EC does not treat national measures protecting workers as barriers to the provision of services. More [info](#).

Fit for 55 package

On 14th July, the Commission released the Fit for 55 package to facilitate the EU greenhouse gas emissions cut of 55% by 2030 compared to 1990. The proposals aim at providing a framework for reaching EU climate objectives that are fair and socially just, maintains innovation and competitiveness of EU industry while ensuring a level playing field vis-à-vis third countries' economic operations. Among others, the creation of a new EU emissions trading system (ETS) for buildings and road transport are included. Also increased renewable and energy efficiency targets and the introduction of a carbon border adjustment mechanism are proposed. The Fit for 55 package aims to bring transport and the building sector into the EU decarbonization process. To complement the substantial spending on climate in the EU budget, Member States should spend the entirety of their emissions trading revenues on climate and energy-related projects. In its

proposal, the Commission recognizes the social impacts of the measures and suggests that a substantial part (25%) of the revenues from the new ETS should go into a Social Climate Fund. The EFBWW will now analyse the different proposals in detail to make sure that the green transition means also a just transition for workers in our sectors.

Final conference of the ETUC subcontracting project

More EU regulation on subcontracting - a high priority on the agenda of the EFBWW. Is there some political momentum?



The European Commission is working on a study on subcontracting in the framework of the Posting of Workers Directive. Against this background, the EFBWW participated as a main stakeholder in a two-year project of the ETUC on subcontracting. Aim of the project: Identifying and making visible the tremendous problems with the respect of workers' rights in subcontracting chains in the different sectors, and analysing existing regulations and gaps in the

EU policy framework.

The EFBWW provided two cases from Belgium and France in which posted workers at the lower ends of artificial subcontracting chains were victims of massive wage fraud by employers. In the final conference, Thilo Janssen from the EFBWW secretariat reported about the devastating school accident in Antwerp and the tragedy of the posted workers who died, gave an overview on how the construction sector is affected by subcontracting, explained some of the most pressing policy demands to regulate subcontracting, and presented best practice examples from trade union initiatives such as social ID cards and possibilities for EWCs to monitor workers' rights in the subcontracting chains of multinational companies.

PROFBUD (UKR) Labour migration conference

On 19 August the Ukrainian construction trade union PROFBUD organized its annual labour migration conference. The focus was on the growing number of Ukrainian building workers leaving the country to work in the EU and Israel. Labour migration may provide better opportunities for Ukrainian workers, but too often, they are cheated and end up in precarious situations. Different panels discussed the need for specific protection measures and required legal and legislative provisions in home and host

countries. Tom Deleu, EFBWW general secretary, pointed out that the issue of 3rd country national workers is becoming more important on the EU policy agenda. The EFBWW has been successfully lobbying towards EU institutions to address this issue and will insist on

new measures to clarify the status of these workers in the context of posting, to avoid that they end up in the grey zone and are unprotected in case of an accident, wage theft, etc. We also need to become better at organising migrant workers. We need to improve the cooperation

between trade unions in the sending and the receiving country. This is part of the aims of the ECMIN project and the joint statement on migration between EFBWW and BWI.

Projects

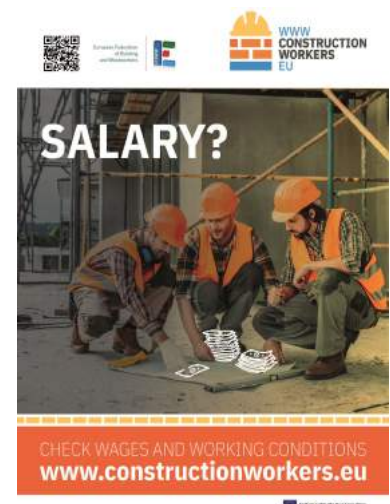
ECMIN: Save the date!

8 September 2021

The EFBWW will organise a meeting with all contact persons, responsible for updating the www.constructionworkers.eu website, campaign officers and interested trade union representatives to an online meeting, which will be organised on **8 September 2021, from 10 to 12 a.m.** In the meeting, we will present the updating manual, discuss the results of the ECMIN questionnaire and underline the importance of

updating the website. We will also address the dissemination of the ECMIN Cards and other promotional material, which was not possible due to COVID in 2020 and the first half of 2021. As we are getting back to a more 'normal' context, the moment of launching the dissemination strategy is finally arriving. The "official" launch of the dissemination campaign is set for 27 September. We kindly ask affiliates to start distributing the cards to workers on that date and encourage them to take pictures or make short

videos of all actions and post them on social media platforms. The campaign will run for the rest of the year.



News from our affiliates

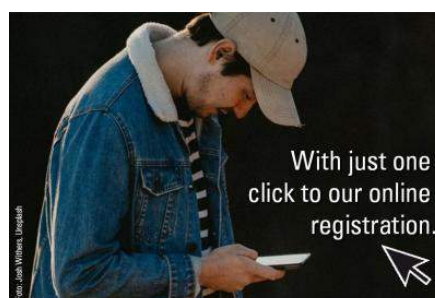
Germany



IG BAU launches new membership model for migrant workers

Germany has a very open labour market, receiving each year several hundred thousand mobile workers from the neighbouring countries. Unfortunately, these workers often do not get the wages nor the working and living conditions they deserve and are exploited. To

protect and represent these workers better, IG BAU has developed a new membership model, adapted to the special needs and circumstances of mobile workers and with a reduced membership fee.



Mobile workers can become member of IG BAU for 12 months via a simple online-registration with one single payment of 187.20 Euro for the construction industry. Workers then benefit full legal assistance from the first day of membership, support in case of collective action and access to information in their language. The membership ends automatically after 12 months. More [info](#).

France



FNCB-CFDT accuses Eiffage of disrespecting social dialogue

The French trade union states that social dialogue is an illusion at Eiffage and criticizes that the information transmitted is extremely limited, sorted and often below what the law prescribes, reflecting a lack of transparency. Consultations only consist of sharing information since decisions are always taken upstream, in a unilateral way. The career paths of elected representatives remain a subject of discrimination and they are seen as a necessary evil, where they should be seen as an asset. Additionally, the representatives note that the race for profit, by any means, is still the rule: refusing to distribute the Macron bonus at the end of the year, refusal to compensate professional expenses linked to teleworking, limitation of the salary policy to the strict minimum, only senior managers are motivated by several levels of remuneration. More [info](#).



and the Swiss Contractors' Association. To establish the construction workers' main demands, Unia conducted a large-scale survey in 2019. Now, workers are heard again to pick their top 3 demands [here](#). The vote is taking place online and at construction sites throughout Switzerland until 31 October. The results will be presented at the national construction conference on 27 November.

Switzerland



Unia prepares collective bargaining negotiations and wants to hear workers

The national collective agreement, which sets out the wages and working conditions for all construction workers in Switzerland, is about to be renegotiated by the construction workers' trade unions

UK



Unite wins significant legal victory for Carillion workers

Unite has secured a significant legal victory in its battle for compensation for workers who lost their jobs when construction and outsourcing giant Carillion collapsed in January 2018. Unite is representing 263 members who are seeking compensation due to Carillion's failure to inform and consult them before they lost their jobs. In January, the Employment Court rejected Carillion's argument that what they claimed were "special

circumstances" applicable to the company's collapse, meant no protective awards should be made to workers for consultation failures that occurred. Carillion mounted an appeal that was heard in the Employment Appeal Tribunal in July. The EAT rejected this argument and ruled that the decision made at the original employment tribunal to allow the cases to continue was correct. While the victory at the EAT is significant, it is not the end of the battle to secure justice for the affected workers. Unite assistant general secretary for legal affairs Howard Beckett said: "This was a vitally important case not just for the former Carillion workers but all workers, who lose their jobs without warning in the future. More [info](#).

North Macedonia



Campaign to protect construction workers against high temperatures

The Macedonian trade union SGIP launched a new campaign to better protect workers against high temperatures. To this end, Ivan Peshevski, president of SGIP, and other trade union officials visited and discussed with the construction workers who are working on the bridges on the Kicevo-Ohrid highway. Peshevski underlined the negative impact of high

temperatures on workers' health and demanded additional protection and extra benefits to compensate for the arduous working conditions. More [info](#).

Romania



Romanian social partners against national RRP proposals for social dialogue

The Romanian social partners urged the European Commission to reject

the national Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) proposals regarding social dialogue. For the trade unions BNS, Cartel Alfa, CSDR and the employers' organisation, UGIR, the Romanian Government proposal jeopardises the role of the recognised social partners and weakens social dialogue. The social partners warn that the plan dilutes social dialogue by positioning NGOs and non-representative organisations as

social dialogue partners. It creates confusion in the recognition of social partners and between social dialogue and civic dialogue. 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.

Miscellaneous

New funding on its way for trade unions

The ETUC application to the EC call for proposals "strengthening the role of social partners in mitigating the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 crisis", was approved and the funding will be granted. The budget secured by the ETUC will be "cascaded" as financial support (grants) to national-level organisations. The national confederations will be invited to submit a grant application for their organisation and/or for national unions. The aim is to improve the capacity of trade unions to take part in social dialogue and to contribute to national efforts for protecting jobs and supporting economic recovery strategies, especially relating to the COVID-19 impact. The ETUC invited the national

confederations who intend to apply for a cascading grant to an information session, which will take place on 3 September 2021 (10:00-12:00). [Register here](#).

ETUI asks for more innovative tools for the EPSR

A policy brief published by ETUI concluded that the Action Plan does not endow the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) with sufficiently innovative implementation tools. In order to seize the momentum created by the Porto Social Summit and to boost the potential of the Action Plan with regard to its social and employment

objectives, it will be crucial to give the EPSR greater capacity to influence EU and Member States' policies effectively. It will be necessary to enrich the legislative agenda and push it towards measures to combat precariousness and strengthen social security and social assistance systems. More [info](#).



EFBWW Meeting schedule 2021

2 September 2021	EFBWW Open expert meeting	Videoconference
7 September 2021	Cement meeting	Videoconference
8 September 2021	ECMIN IV meeting	Videoconference
14 September 2021	EFBWW—FES Renovation wave in CEE countries	Videoconference
15 September 2021	EWC Steering group	Videoconference
27 September 2021	Launch ECMIN IV Dissemination campaign	
29 September 2021	S&H Coordination Group	Videoconference
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
27-28 October 2021	EFBWW EWC Coordinators' Meeting	TBC
28-29 October 2021	BWI European regional Committee	
29 October 2021	EFBWW Standing Committee Building	Videoconference
24 November 2021	EFBWW Executive Committee	Videoconference
November-December 2021	DESOCO project - Thematic Meeting EMPLOYMENT	
1-2 December	Joint EFBWW-BWI MNC Conference	Postponed spring 2022
18 January 2022	RCS project—final conference	