
Collective Bargaining News: 2nd Quarter 2016

Wage Negotiations

- **The Czech Republic:** On 27 June 2016 OS KOVO concluded a favourable collective agreement in Bosch Diesel Jihlava. Total remuneration including pensions insurances will increase by more than 10% during two years. A number of other benefits were negotiated, also co-determination. [Read more](#)
- **Germany:** On 13 May 2016 IG Metall reached an agreement for its members in the metal and electrical industries. In it the purchasing power increases, and so does the coverage rate. [Read more](#)
- **Norway:** On 4 April 2016 Fellesforbundet managed to conclude an agreement with its employer counterpart and thereby avoid a national strike. The overall wage increase will be 2.4%. The government also contributed with a couple of significant measures in order to find a solution. [Read more](#)

Trade Union Actions

- **Italy:** A four-hour national strike was organised on 20 April 2016. All three metal unions took industrial action on this day due to the serious situation in ongoing collective bargaining. [Read more](#) Further industrial action was organised on 9 and 10 June 2016. [Read more](#)
- **The Netherlands:** On 26 April 2016 metalworkers from several unions resorted to strike action to fight for a decent social plan in Engie Benelux. [Read more](#)

European Policies

- **The European Commission** has launched a Platform against undeclared work. The Platform will discuss ways of how to improve current policies. [Read more](#)

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- **The European Commission** has launched an Action Plan aimed at attracting more highly skilled migrant workers from outside the EU. The 'Blue Card' scheme has been little used so far. [Read more](#)
 - **Ten EU Member States** have issued a 'yellow card' to the European Commission regarding the proposed amendments to the Posting of Workers Directive. The reason for this is that the Directive proposal allegedly breaches the principle of subsidiarity. On 16 June 2016 a trade union action was organised in Luxembourg. The demonstration, in which industriAll Europe took part, was a protest against attempts to halt the revision of the Directive.. [Read more](#)

National Policies

- **Switzerland:** The electorate has overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to introduce a guaranteed basic income of 2 500 Swiss francs for all. In a referendum on 5 June 2016 nearly 77% opposed the plan, with only 23% backing it. [Read more](#)

Articles

- **Ronald Janssen:** The European Central Bank (ECB), which on numerous occasions has advocated weaker collective bargaining structures, might be about to change its way of thinking. [Read more](#)

Economic and Social Data

- **Eurostat:** 10 million part-time workers in the EU would have preferred to work more in 2015. For Italy, the potential additional labour force was equivalent to as much as 14% of its total labour force. [Read more](#)
- **Eurostat:** Belgium, with 1.6%, had the highest annual inflation rate from May 2015 to May 2016. As many as 18 Member States had deflation over the same period. The euro area average was -0.1%. [Read more](#)
- **Eurostat:** GDP rose by 0.5% in the EU in the 1st quarter of 2016. This was higher than in the 4th quarter of 2015 (0.4%). The improvement was slightly larger in the Eurozone. [Read more](#)



Study Reports

- **European Parliament:** There is clear evidence that income inequality has increased substantially since the mid-1980s. Inequality is at a historic high and is related to the fragility of the economic recovery since the 2008 financial crisis. [Read more](#)
- **ETUI:** Although union densities have fallen markedly almost everywhere in Europe over recent decades, many European countries still have high and stable levels of binding collective bargaining coverage. The main reason for this is the extension of collective agreements. [Read more](#)
- **Eurofound:** The yearbook for 2015 has been published. It describes trends in the labour market, one of which being a weakening of collective bargaining coordination. Since the 1990s, there has not been a single national example where collective bargaining coordination has been strengthened. [Read more](#)