

Mobilising for Just Transition

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Online meeting, 22 September 2021

During the industriAll Europe Congress (1-2 June 2021), several interventions referred to the (lack of) implementation of a real and substantial Just Transition for workers affected by the further execution of European Climate Policies and more specifically the European Green Deal. Some interventions mentioned explicitly the need for ‘mobilisation’ on this topic.

IndustriAll Europe is working intensively on lobbying political actors and institutions (at the highest level) to raise its concerns, and to make clear that warm words on Just Transition are not enough – strong action is urgently needed to deliver a social dimension on climate action. The slogan ‘The Green Deal has to be a Social Deal’ needs resources and investment, social dialogue and policies on the ground: in the regions and sectors which are today already undergoing transition. It is clear that this political lobby work is not enough. We also need to present our demands through traditional trade union action and mobilisation.

The European Green Deal will accelerate dramatically the transformation of all our industries

25 million manufacturing workers in Europe currently face fast-moving forces of change: job losses and restructuring due to the COVID crisis; job losses and changes because of decarbonisation; job losses and changes caused by digitalisation; job losses due to trade and market developments.

The Fit for 55% package published on 14 July 2021, which aims to implement the global Paris Climate Agreement, the recent European Climate Law and the European Green Deal, will accelerate the transformation still further. In practice, this means nearly doubling the annual emission reductions to be achieved by 2030, compared to the -40% target currently in force. The additional emissions reduction is equivalent to Germany’s annual emissions (760 million tCO₂e in 2018) and represents approximately a tripling of annual emission reductions compared to what the EU achieved from 1990 to 2018. This is the most significant industrial change since the industrial revolution.

Many of our sectors are affected by the package, from extractive industries to energy sectors and energy-intensive industries. Almost all European regions are impacted, but the impact is not equal, and the possibilities to create alternative employment for jobs affected by these transitions are also very unequal at European level.

Reaching climate neutrality by 2050 requires steep emission cuts, starting in the coming decade. Investment cycles mean that the technology choices for 2050 in many of our sectors will be made before 2030. A series of publications have quantified potential impacts of the current transformation. Similarly, the European Commission has clearly identified the regions depending on the manufacturing industries as being exposed to multiple challenges while the EU is decarbonising. However, a clear and granular mapping of the employment consequences of a shift towards a climate neutral industry is still to be done.

Given the number of jobs at stake and the magnitude of the ongoing transformation, social disruption due to a badly managed transition might severely undermine the ability of the European Green Deal to succeed and will do long-term damage to our economies and societies. Since Europe's Green Deal is a deliberate political intervention into market forces, Europe's politicians have a direct responsibility for delivering a Just Transition framework for affected workers and regions that manages decarbonisation while preventing deindustrialisation. The invisible hand of the market will not deliver the necessary climate ambition we need and is incapable of delivering a fair transition for the workers and communities impacted.

A robust EU Just Transition framework for all affected industries and workers is urgently needed

'Just Transition', once a trade union campaign slogan, has finally made its way into the common language of European policymakers and national leaders, while we see increasingly different definitions by businesses and NGOs on what 'Just Transition' means. These often ignore its core social meaning. For trade unions, Just Transition is the anticipation and management of change in which the participation of trade unions and workers is a *sine qua non* – 'Nothing about us, without us'. The [ILO Just Transition Guidelines](#) provide for a global guiding framework for Just Transition.

The final adoption of the Just Transition Fund (JTF) in June 2021 marks a significant victory for trade unionists, calling for the recognition and resources needed to address the social and regional impact of economic restructuring in Europe's carbon-intensive and coal-dependent regions and sectors, as a result of crucial climate action. It is the first concrete policy initiative providing resources and an important step towards translating the concept into reality. However, the JTF is limited in scope to coal-dependent and carbon-intensive regions and sectors, while the massive challenge of decarbonising for other sectors and workers remains largely overlooked. Equivalent resources are necessary for the transformation of the rest of our manufacturing base.

However, resources are only part of the story. Rarely is the link made to the need for a real toolbox of rights to ensure that transitions are smooth for individual workers. You cannot just throw money at this problem. It is therefore alarming that these tools are under sustained attack through the decentralisation of collective bargaining systems and weak social dialogue in many European countries and the attitude of employers' representatives to cut labour costs (e.g. BusinessEurope was very reluctant to adopt the declaration at the Porto summit). We need to reverse this trend, committing the EU, national governments and businesses to engage actively in social dialogue and inclusion of workers in strategic decisions.

It is high time that the EU Commission put forward a proposal for a European legal framework on the anticipation and the management of change, turning Just Transition from rhetoric to action.

What are our concrete demands?

1. Adequate **resources** for a Just Transition, leaving no one or region behind: it is estimated that it costs €10k to upskill/retrain a worker. Currently, the JTF is inadequate for the task at hand. Resources must be drawn from EU budgets, national funds and industry. While a Just Transition is not free, the costs of poor transitions are much higher for individuals, regions and society at large.
2. **Policy cooperation** and exchange of good practices: a Just Transition will happen locally in regional economies and workplaces, but there is much that can be framed by common policy objectives

and the exchange of good practices. The Just Transition Platform should be extended to cover all the sectors impacted by the European Green Deal. Transition pathways must be co-designed through social dialogue and worker participation.

3. **Anticipation of change and social dialogue for all workers:** in 2013, the European Parliament proposed a European legal framework on the anticipation and the management of change – this should be created to ensure workers have the right to co-decision during the transition in their workplaces and regions.

It is time for action.

In line with what has been said at our Congress, industriAll Europe will combine its political lobbying with trade union action.

Action can only be successful if we all participate. The proposal below follows important principles and guidelines:

- our action needs to take place at moments when it can still change the political agenda.
- we need to follow a bottom-up approach.
- it needs to be industry-wide
- it needs to be supported by a campaign
- every affiliated organisation needs to join our joint campaign. The campaign and activities/action calendar has to be 'owned' by all affiliated organisations. The Executive Committee is the platform to discuss and follow-up on the campaign and actions

All policy committees and sectors will be asked to cooperate in this campaign, each from their own role and expertise. We can only succeed if we all join this campaign and the actions.

How and when to mobilise for the greatest effect?

	EU activities (more TBC)	Existing planned iAE activities	Additional proposed activities
June		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euractiv op-ed on Just Transition 	30 June: meeting with P/VP on JT Mobilisation. General introduction, checking the first ideas and proposals
July	14 July: Fit for 55 package due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 July iAE-IAG meeting to discuss potential joint statement for COP26 on Just Transition for manufacturing, mining and energy workers 2 July: launch of Coalition for Just Transition in automotive sector (project with JTC/financed by ECF) Initial public reaction to the package (web news) IPC: consultation on revision of state aid rules 	
August	2/8 deadline for consultation on revision of state aid rules to implement Green Deal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of Fit for 55% proposals Preparation of briefing materials for Auto Coalition 	
September	7/9 Presentation of Fit for 55 package from DG CLIMA Director-General Mauro Petriccione & S&D VP for Green Deal Mohammad Chahim MEP (PvDA, NL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7/9 Energy Network (discussion of ETS revision/CBAM/RED revision/state aid rules) + energy workshop (iAE decarbonisation project) Bulgarian JT dialogue Polish JT dialogue 30/9 IPC (am) (discussion of initial draft political position on Fit for 55% package) 	<p>Development of a JT Campaign proposal and calendar, combining general communications with sector-specific needs</p> <p>Platform text with JT demands for our industry-wide campaign.</p> <p>22 September afternoon : extraordinary Executive Committee:</p>

	MEP breakfast meeting (hosted by Bernd Lange SPD, DE) on JT for mobility/automotive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30/9 (pm) Just Transition in extractive industries/Raw materials event (iAE decarbonisation project) Development of joint IAG-iAE statement for COP26 	<p>- update of political work (including Fit for 55% package)</p> <p>- presentation of JT Mobilisation Plan and European Action 25 October 2021- 10 November 2021</p> <p>- agreement on Platform Text and demands for agreement on mobilisation and campaign calendar</p> <p>Developing tools, social media, visuals and materials for industry-wide JT campaign</p>
October	Meeting with EVP Timmermans on the Social Dimension of Fit for 55 package (within JT mobilisation actions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint IAG-iAE meeting with Turkish affiliates on Just Transition and road to COP26 Joint IAG-iAE online conference ahead of COP26 Building new Just Transition website (iAE decarbonisation project) 	<p>25 October 2021- 10 November 2021: European Cross-sectoral Action (decentralised)</p> <p>Collecting proposed regional and sectoral Just Transition Actions/Activities for our European Cross-sectoral Action Day</p>
November	1/11- 12/11 COP26 Glasgow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COP26 World of Work agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint IAG-iAE event in ITUC agenda on Just Transition for industrial, energy and mining workers iAE event on Just Transition and lessons from the UK iAE participation in other organisations COP26 events (e.g. DG Research Process4Planet event, etc.) Week of 3 November: Regional workshop in Prague with DG REGIO (iAE decarbonisation project) 19/11 SE Europe regional workshop (iAE BTUP project) 	<p>30/11-01/12 : Executive Committee :</p> <p>- evaluation of European Action Day</p> <p>Agreement on further Action and Campaign activities and calendar</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30/11 Executive Committee (policy position on Fit for 55 package - initial assessment) 	
December	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW Regional workshop - Madrid (iAE decarbonisation project) • IRL/UK/Nordic regional workshop – Dublin (iAE CB project) 	Regional mobilisation/political activities
January	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central/NL regional workshop - Frankfurt (iAE decarbonisation project) • Nordic/Baltic/Polish regional workshop - Helsinki (iAE decarbonisation project) 	Regional mobilisation/political activities
February	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern regional workshop – Rome (iAE CB project) • France/Belgium regional workshop - Marseilles (iAE CB project) • developing iAE JT manifesto 	Regional mobilisation/political activities
March	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPC: draft manifesto for Just Transition (outcome of decarbonisation project) 	
April	MEP event on manifesto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (extraordinary) Executive Committee/Event (adoption of manifesto for JT) 	At the launch of the JT Manifesto : - By ExCom (November 2021) agreed activity/action
May		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final conference: iAE Just Transition & decarbonisation project promoting the manifesto and the online tool to policy makers, social partners and other stakeholders 	