

PRESS RELEASE

Launch of Together at Work, a campaign by industriAll European Trade Union

IndustriAll Europe launches ‘Together at Work’, a campaign “to demonstrate the positive impact of collective bargaining in delivering a better life for workers” - to be joined by representatives of European Commission, Finnish Presidency, MEPs

- The campaign, which will run from September 2019 to March 2020, is aimed at workers in general whilst focussing specifically on women, young people and those in precarious jobs. It will also seek to influence employers and policymakers.
- “We want to promote the benefits of collective bargaining around Europe, for workers but also for the economy and the society as a whole”, explains Luc Triangle, General Secretary of industriAll Europe, “particularly at a time when the new Commission has expressed a desire to put collective bargaining back on the European agenda.”

Brussels, 26th september. IndustriAll European Trade Union today launches a new campaign “to demonstrate the positive impact of collective bargaining in delivering a better life for workers”. The campaign, which is a major step for this federation of European trade unions, will run under the slogan ‘Together at Work’. It will take place from September 2019 to March 2020 and is aimed at all workers whilst taking a specific focus on women, young people and those in precarious jobs. It will also seek to influence employers and policymakers.

The launch event on the 26th of September, to be held in Brussels, will count several Members of the European Parliament, as well as representatives of the European Commission, the Finnish Presidency and European employers’ associations amongst its participants.

Amongst the reasons for the campaign, industriAll Europe underlines that strengthening collective bargaining is a key to higher pay and better working conditions.

Luc Triangle, industriAll Europe’s General Secretary, affirms:

“Over the past decades, collective bargaining has been eroded throughout Europe. Following the crisis which began in 2008, collective bargaining was consciously attacked, by both national governments and European institutions, as a means to lower wages and restore profitability. The increase in individual contracts has left many workers unable to stand up for themselves and led to a rise in precarious work and in-work poverty.

“This has led to a vicious cycle where lower bargaining coverage undermines the power to act collectively and to improve conditions for all workers in society. This also erodes social cohesion and now threatens the future of our social-security systems, as workers can no longer afford, and employers no longer have to, contribute sufficient to ensure adequate protection.”

Luc Triangle concludes:

“Our campaign will clearly demonstrate the advantages for workers, employers and society of a model of workplace relations with collective bargaining at its heart. This means strong trade unions and employers willing to sit around the table. Together at Work will show the way forward and identify the measures needed to support collective bargaining.”

Manfred Anderle, Chairman of industriAll Europe’s Collective Bargaining and Social Policy Committee, says:

“The main objective of the campaign is to demonstrate the positive impact of collective bargaining on quality of life, economic stability and social cohesion. Each month, we will focus on a different set of messages aimed at workers, employers, young people and others. By telling real stories about working people, their struggles and their jobs, we hope to highlight the concrete benefits that trade unions bring through negotiations with employers.”

These messages will be disseminated throughout industriAll Europe’s 181 trade union affiliates in 38 European countries - representing 7 million working men and women across supply chains in manufacturing, mining and energy sectors across Europe - through a combination of video and print material for use in workplace action and social media engagement.

IndustriAll European Trade Union represents the voice of 7 million working men and women across supply chains in manufacturing, mining and energy sectors across Europe. We aim to protect and advance the rights of the workers. Our federation has 181 trade union affiliates in 38 European countries. Our objective is to be a powerful player in the European political arena vis-à-vis European companies, European industries, employers’ associations and European institutions.