

PRESS INVITATION

Together at Work:

A Campaign to Strengthen Collective bargaining in Europe

Launch event for the 'Together at Work' Campaign

Dear correspondents,

Strengthening collective bargaining is key to higher wages and better working conditions. In recent decades, collective bargaining has been eroded throughout Europe. After the crisis began in 2008, collective bargaining was consciously attacked, both by national governments and by European institutions, as a means to reduce wages and restore profitability.

In contrast, European trade unions have worked throughout these years to demonstrate the advantages of a collective model of relations in the workplace with collective bargaining at its heart. To build on this work, industriAll Europe will launch the campaign "Together at work", whose main objective is to demonstrate the positive impact of collective bargaining, backed by strong unions, in delivering a better life for workers, and a fairer, more equal society for all.

Collective bargaining and employment policy seem to be climbing up the new Commission's agenda. President-elect Ursula von der Leyen has recently [called for a European framework for minimum wages](#) and stated that the 'optimal option is to have collective bargaining by employers' unions and trade unions'.

We cordially invite you to the launch event, which takes place at the Renaissance Brussels Hotel (Rue du Parnasse, 19) between 10 am and 12.30 pm. In the same way, if you are interested in the campaign contents, we invite you to download the Political Briefing [here](#).

We will be joined by representatives of the European Commission, the Finnish Presidency and MEPs from across the political spectrum.

When? Thursday > 26 september > 10.00 am - 12.30 am

Where? Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19 | 1050 Brussels

SPEAKERS Barbara Kauffmann (Director DG EMPL A, Employment & Social Governance, European Commission), Jenni Karjalainen, Special Adviser to the Minister of Employment Finland, Evelyn Regner (MEP, S&D, Austria) , Domènec Ruiz Devesa (MEP, S&D, Spain), Marc Botenga (MEP,

GUE/NGL, Belgium), Alicia Ginel Homs (MEP, S&D, Spain), Estrella Ferrandis Dura (MEP, S&D, Spain), Per Hilmersson (Deputy General Secretary ETUC) Luc Triangle (General Secretary industriAll Europe), Federico Parrinello (worker at AGC Glass, Seneffe, FGTB, Belgium), Florin Bercea (President FSLI Petrom, Romania) , Darko Davidovic (IF Metall, Sweden).

PROGRAMME

10:00 Welcome speech by Luc Triangle (General Secretary industriAll Europe)

10:15 1st Panel: ‘The benefits of collective bargaining for workers’ chaired by Oliver Röpke, Chair Workers’ Group, European Economic and Social Council

Federico Parrinello (worker at AGC Glass, Seneffe, FGTB, Belgium), Florin Bercea (President FSLI Petrom, Romania), Darko Davidovic (IF Metall, Sweden), Evelyn Regner (MEP, S&D, Austria)

Open debate with the intervention of: Domènec Ruiz Devesa (MEP, S&D, Spain), Marc Botenga (MEP, GUE/NGL, Belgium), Alicia Ginel Homs (MEP, S&D, Spain)

11:15 2nd Panel: ‘The benefits of collective bargaining for the economy and the society’ chaired by Manfred Anderle, PRO GE, Austria

Per Hilmersson (Deputy General Secretary ETUC), Uwe Combüchen (Director General, Ceemet European Tech & Industry Employers), Barbara Kauffmann (Director DG EMPL A, Employment & Social Governance, European Commission), Jenni Karjalainen (Special Adviser to the Minister of Employment Finland)

Open debate with the intervention of: Estrella Ferrandis Dura (MEP, S&D, Spain)

And 5 to 7 people to be added from MEPs, national affiliates

12:20 Conclusion by MEP Gabrielle Bischoff (S&D, Germany)

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.