



EFBWW NEWSLETTER

News from the EFBWW

Former EFBWW president

Domenico Pesenti passed away



Domenico Pesenti passed away on 31 May, at the age of 69. Domenico was the General Secretary of Filca CISL

(2003-2015) and President of the EFBWW (2007-2015). Enzo Pelle, General Secretary Filca CISL, "We have lost an exceptional personality, who has dedicated his entire life to the trade union, to the defence of workers, and building a better society". Tom Deleu, General Secretary EFBWW, "Today we lose a great trade union leader. A true European, a gentleman, a diplomat. He will be remembered as a committed supporter and friend of European sectoral trade unionism. He will be missed". The EFBWW and its affiliates want to express their deepest condolences and sympathy to Dome-

nico's family and all his former colleagues at Filca CISL. We invite our affiliates to leave a message of comfort and sign the [mourning register](#).

Norwegian trade unionist Kjell Skjærvø passed away



Courtesy Erlend Angelo

Norwegian trade unionist, Kjell Skjærvø passed away on 15th May, almost 74 years old.

During his career and beyond Kjell played a major role in Fellesforbudet shaping the union's responses for improved regulations and measures to protect migrant workers from social dumping in Norway. In recent years Kjell was very active within the different structures of the EFBWW dealing with these questions, and more in particular in the Strategic Group.

The war in Ukraine was one of the focal points. Vasyl Andreyev, President of the Ukrainian Profbud trade union, shared a message, stressing that the time to prepare the rebuilding of the country has started and that workers cannot be forgotten. Hein Bollens, deputy Head of Unit of H1 Sustainable Industrial Policy and Construction from DG GROW, European Commission, participated in a discussion on the geopolitical and economic impacts of the war. The Executive Committee decided that the next EFBWW General Assembly will take place on 21-23 November 2023, hosted by the Nordic region. Colleague Mercedes Landolfi resigned her EFBWW functions and would be replaced by Bruno Bothua as Chair of the Standing Committee Wood and by Nina Kreutzman as the new liaison person at the Women's Committee at BWI and ETUC.

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EFBWW Congress from 21-23 November 2023 in the Nordic region

On 31 May, the EFBWW held its first Executive Committee meeting of the year with more than 40 participants.



SCB discusses impact of war in Ukraine on construction

At the EFBWW Standing Committee Building on 4 May, the state of play of the construction sector in the EU was at the centre of discussion. New challenges were identified due to the uncertainty brought by the war in Ukraine and some existing and persistent ones were listed. In all, the future does not look bright, unless investments at political and financial level are done. The rising energy prices and shortage of raw materials, the consequent suspension and interruption of construction projects, the lack of attracting young workers and female workers, and the lack of skilled labour and the need to step up the fight against social dumping and labour crime are risks and factors that need urgent action at national and European levels.

EFBWW wants workers to be involved in talks with Equans and Bouygues

Equans a subsidiary of Engie is currently in the process of being acquired by Bouygues. A meeting was held with EFBWW affiliates on Monday 16th May, to discuss the situation and the possible implications for workers' future employment conditions. The EFBWW has now written to both ENGIE and Bouygues management seeking a meeting. The EFBWW is extremely concerned and condemns the lack of dialogue and engagement by the manage-

ment of both Equans and Bouygues with our affiliates who represent over 125,000 workers in Bouygues and 60,000 workers in Equans. The EFBWW demands genuine commitment for social dialogue and concrete guarantees for workers. More [info](#).



New EWC steering group at Holcim

An election to renew the Holcim EWC steering group took place. The new EWC Secretary is Marco Emillio Rigamonti from Italy, and the new Deputy Secretary is Raoul Bortoletti from Switzerland. On 4 May 2022, EFBWW, IndustriALL Global Union, and the Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI), representing over 62 million workers in different industrial sectors including Holcim workers, addressed Holcim shareholders. Though Holcim declared a zero-harm target for the workers creating the company wealth, the reality paints a very different picture. Unions called on Holcim to take responsibility for its workers, regardless of their employment status, and to recognise the global unions as legitimate partners. More [info](#).

High number of irregularities in posting in construction

The EFBWW participated in the final conference of the EU funded project [Posting.stat](#), which looked into the scale, characteristics and impact of intra-EU posting. During its presentation, the EFBWW stressed that the majority of posted workers earn less than their local counterparts, particularly for postings to Western European countries. The data presented in the conference revealed that the construction sector often falls short of its obligations to workers, with a high proportion of inspections finding infringements. It is all too easy for unscrupulous employers to avoid proper scrutiny. With such a high proportion of infringements to investigations, there must be more checks. Meanwhile, the trend of the use of posted workers is on the rise, there is an increased demand for construction, however, the presence of posted workers in the sector cannot be used as an excuse to keep wages and conditions at low levels. The greening and digitalisation should be used as an opportunity to change rules, as it will require better skills and should make the sector more attractive.



Projects

Save the date!
ECMIN final conference
Lublin, Poland - 29/30 June



The EFBWW will organise the ECMIN project final conference on 29/30 June in Lublin, Poland, with the help of its Polish affiliate Budowlani. During the event, we will present all the updates on the construction workers [website](#) and discuss the challenges that migrant and posted workers face. We will take the opportunity to have a solidarity moment with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters with the presence of the trade union Profbud and BWI. One other important aspect of the

project is contacting workers on site. On their national construction day, our Belgian affiliate CSC BIE took action, went to construction sites and distributed the ECMIN cards to workers. On another plan, the other Belgian affiliate CG FGTB carried out awareness-raising and information campaigns on social dumping with the focus on the sub-contracting chains.



Construction Blueprint final international conference

The EFBWW took part in the international [Construction Blueprint](#)



[conference](#), where 24 partners, from 12 countries, led by Fundación Laboral de la Construcción (Spain), discussed the results of the project. The EFBWW, jointly with FIEC and EBC, organised a workshop on the sustainability of the project, to make the deliverables of the project prevail in time. A final event will be held in Brussels, Belgium. The main objective of Construction Blueprint is to develop a new sectoral strategic approach to cooperate on skills in the construction industry and to support a better matching between skills needs of companies and skills provided by training centres.

News from our affiliates

We dedicate part of this section to the problems felt by our affiliates and affecting our sector, due to the uncertainty brought by the war in Ukraine, rising energy prices and shortage of materials. In the next newsletter, more reports will follow.

Bulgaria



Prices rising, contracts suspended, lack of skilled labour

The construction sector in Bulgaria is facing two overlapping crises – the

COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The most significant risks in the sector are the lack of resources and materials, particularly steel and reinforcing iron, the increasing prices of construction materials and the lack of qualified labour force. FCIW-PODKREPA says that due to the war in Ukraine, the supply chain has changed to importing more from Turkey and Greece, but at a significantly higher cost. The trade union exemplifies: the cost of reinforcing iron has in-

creased by 300%, and prices for water and sewage pipes and fittings have doubled. Contractors either terminate the execution of current contracts or refuse public contracts they already won. FCIW-PODKREPA notes that, although the volume of construction output is expected to shrink, reducing the number of people employed in construction, the lack of skilled labour remains one of the major problems facing the sector. Social partners pay special attention to this, and launched the

international project TANSIRC 2.0, one of the goals of which is to raise the image of the construction sector in Bulgaria.

Spain



Government adopts measures to protect construction public contracts

The construction sector in Spain closed 2021 with forecasts to increase its order book, but the surge in prices and the projected slow-down in production, makes the future unclear. CCOO explains that the slowdown is due to the uncertainty generated by the war in Ukraine and the price increase for raw materials and energy, as well as problems in the supply chain. All this has consequences on the sector's capacity to take on public projects. In order not to generate deserted public tenders or bottlenecks in the management of the bidders' processes, measures were adopted in relation to the revision of prices for public works contracts: the war in Ukraine has led to the cessation of the activity of important producers of construction materials. A second package of measures was adopted on 29 March to avoid the paralysis of ongoing public works, many of them financed by the funds of the Transformation, Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Denmark



Risk of lower levels of employment in the construction sector

The construction sector in Denmark has experienced a prolonged period of growth and high levels of employment. However, Batkartellet underlines that, as in most countries, increasing prices of building materials as well as shortages of certain raw materials significantly increased the costs of new projects. Rising energy prices are also increasing costs in the construction sector, as well as throughout the entire value chain. The war in Ukraine has without a doubt contributed to the existing difficulties by adding more pressure to an already strained value chains, making it even harder and more expensive to obtain building materials. Finally, Denmark is for the first time in decades experiencing rising inflation levels resulting in even more uncertainty regarding investments and new construction projects. All these elements combined could point towards significantly lower levels of growth and employment in the construction sector in the future.



Romania



Cost increase threatening growth of construction sector

In February, construction works registered an increase of 7.7% compared to February 2021 with an increase of 12,200 employees. However, FGS Familia warns that construction costs also increased, and more than doubled in the second month of the year compared with the same period of 2021. There was a surge of 143% in material costs. Government implemented new measures to control the impact of rising costs on the sector. Amongst others the authorities set up the rules to allow the adjustment of the prices for the contracts that do not have a revision clause included and set the revision formula to be used to update the price of the contracts. There are also social protection measures for employees in the context of the armed conflict in Ukraine. Employees whose employers temporarily suspend their individual employment contract according to the Labour Code, get an indemnity of 75% of the basic salary. This measure will be applied until 31 December, for employees of employers directly or indirectly affected by the impossibility of making transactions with economic operators in Ukraine, the Russian Federation and Belarus.

UK



Less Russian oil should lead to more jobs in construction

For Unite, the UK government policy of ending reliance on Russian oil imports must lead to new investment in energy solutions which will require a large number of construction workers and act as a catalyst to support new jobs and greater investment in apprenticeships across the sector. The trade union stresses that the crisis has already caused huge economic disruption that will impact working people in the UK. Unite calls for measures to protect UK families struggling with the cost of living crisis as the conflict drives up energy prices. Unite demands a comprehensive programme of support for all UK workers, their families and companies impacted, including wage protection and company support while alternate supply chains are established.

Belgium



Sector risks stagnation and inflation in Belgium

The situation in Belgium is stable until now, but stagnation and inflation are risks being considered in the near term as ACV warns. The sector is also witnessing a rise in real estate prices, which in addition to the increasing prices of energy and materials are making consumers reluctant to buy and to invest in renovations. These factors add to the risks that the construction sector

needs to address in the short term. In parallel, FGTB underlines that one of the biggest problems continues to be labour shortage, particularly of skilled workers: companies do not find skilled workers but are not focused on training the workers and improving the working conditions either in order to make the sector more attractive. On the other hand, greening and digitalisation are full of opportunities, but are a considerable challenge to small and medium enterprises, which have difficult access to digitalisation.

May was Congress month for many of our affiliates. Below a brief overview.

Sweden



Johan Lindholm re-elected as Byggnads president



The EFBWW congratulates Johan Lindholm with his re-election as the president of the Swedish trade union Byggnads. The [congress](#) took place in the Swedish capital, Stockholm, under the title: Together we build the future! Over 150 representatives from across the country, elected to represent over 100,000 construction workers, met to decide on activities and action programmes for the future. A total of 305 motions were on the agenda about un-

employment insurance, labour market policy, working time issues, working environment, contract insurance.

GS debates the need for organising



Our Swedish affiliate GS also held its Congress this month, and under the motto: Fight Together! EFBWW general secretary, Tom Deleu, was one of the speakers and highlighted the importance of organising and took the opportunity to ask how the EFBWW can support affiliates to achieve stronger participation in the trade union movement. The Congress also adopted a statement on the war in Ukraine, condemning Russia's invasion. In addition, GS – together with Byggnads - unanimously adopted a joint statement regarding minimum wages, refusing the implementation of minimum wages in the Swedish labour market. More [info](#).

Eletrikerna gathers forces for the future of electricians

On 23-25 May 2022, 122 delegates elected by Elektrikerna's members gathered to draw up guidelines for the union work for the next four years. This year's union meeting's theme was: Power gathering 2022. At the meeting, the management, board and central youth

manager were elected. Urban Pettersson remains as union chairman of the Swedish Electricians' Association. Several topics were discussed during the three days of congress such as the development of the collective agreement, proximity to the members, proposals for new statutes and geography, action plan for diversity, the future of electricians. More [info](#).

Italy



Enzo Pelle re-elected as secretary general at Filca CISL

In Italy, the [XVII Filca CISL congress](#) confirmed Enzo Pelle as the trade union's general secretary. During three days of work and discussion, the Congress, with the slogan "Be there to build change", was attended by 500 participants. Among the proposals debated, Enzo Pelle

stressed the digitalisation of public contracts and the qualification of contracting authorities, the digitalisation of the construction site, the qualification of business and work, and the fight against dumping. "Their common thread is to give more incisiveness to regularity, transparency, safety and respect for work, in a word to increase social justice", he stated.

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

ETUI publishes Gender inequality in performance-related pay

The research published by ETUI shows that performance-related pay is becoming increasingly prevalent across the EU and that it contributes to pay inequalities between men and women. The study concludes that men are more likely to receive

performance-related pay, and in higher amounts. This happens because it tends to be available in larger firms, at the higher end of the wage distribution, for full-time rather than part-time work, and in certain sectors and occupations. ETUI states that this growing problem has received little attention by

policymakers, including at the EU level. The current EU equal pay legal framework, as well as the proposed Directive on pay transparency, may be of some, albeit limited assistance in addressing gender inequalities. More [info](#).



EFBWW Meeting schedule 2022

14 June 2022	EFBWW EWC Coordinators' meeting	Brussels, Belgium/Hybrid
29-30 June 2022	ECMIN Final Conference	Lublin, Poland
1 September	EFBWW Presidium	Brussels, Belgium
13-14 September 2022	EFBWW EWC Coordinators' meeting and ETUI Training seminar	Naples, Italy
15 September 2022	EFBWW Standing Committee Wood	EESC Brussels, Belgium
4 October 2022	EFBWW OSH Coordination group meeting	EESC Brussels, Belgium
5 October 2022	Social dialogue construction - WP OSH	
4-5 October 2022	BWI-EFBWW joint conference on women in trade	Madrid, Spain
4-8 October 2022	BWI Congress	Madrid, Spain
21 October 2022	Social Dialogue Wood/Furniture WG OSH + VET	
10 November 2022	EFBWW Standing Committee Building	EESC Brussels, Belgium
23 November 2022	EFBWW Executive Committee	EESC Brussels, Belgium
6-7 December 2022	EFBWW/BWI MNC conference	Lisbon, Portugal