

# EFBWW NEWSLETTER

## News from the EFBWW



social aspect of the Internal Market is very important and needs to be further developed. The construction industry is a fraud sensitive industry and needs specific, more strict regulations. The future EU Internal Market must prioritise social rights on a par with economic rights and ensure the welfare of every construction worker in the EU. The report is due to be presented at the March 2024 European Summit in Brussels and should give inputs to the incoming presidencies of the Council and to the next European Commission with regard to the functioning of the Internal Market. More [info](#)

### EFBWW met Enrico Letta

On 26 February, the EFBWW and its Italian affiliates Feneal UIL and Fillea CGIL have met the former Italian Prime Minister and currently chair of the Jacques Delors Foundation, Enrico Letta. Mr Letta has been commissioned by the European Commission and the Council of the Europe-

an Union to prepare a high level report on the future of the EU's internal market. Following the resolution on 30 years Internal Market that was adopted at the congress in Helsinki, the EFBWW insisted to meet Mr Letta to discuss the many problems construction workers are today confronted with. In a more than 2 hour engaging discussion we pointed at the problems of social dumping and labour crime, and the need to regulate the internal market, to limit subcontracting and ban agencies in posting. The EFBWW calls for a reform of the EU Internal Market, that pays attention to the specific characteristics and needs of certain sectors. Mr Letta agreed that the

### Save the date: 20 March - Abusive subcontracting practices - can the EU do more?

The EFBWW and 3F - Gør dig stærkere. Bygge-, Anlæg- og Trækartellet (Denmark) in cooperation with Cindy Franssen (EPP), Marianne Vind (S&D) and Nikolaj Vilumsen (The Left) are organising a debate on: Abusive subcontracting practices - can the EU do more? In the context of the 'La Hulpe - Future Social Agenda of the EU', this event will focus on those subcontracting practices which undermine fair competition and the integrity of the Single Market, and which lead to social dumping and exploitation

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of third-country nationals. The debate will take place in the European Parliament on 20 March from 9 to 11 a.m.. More [info](#) Register [here](#).

**I VOTE FOR #LIMIT SUBCONTRACTING**

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 6-9 JUNE 2024

**Breakfast debate on ABUSIVE SUBCONTRACTING PRACTICES – CAN THE EU DO MORE?**

Date: Wednesday, 20 March 2024, 09:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
Venue: European Parliament (room JAN Q 3), Brussels

Logos: EFMD EQUIS ACCREDITED, AACSB ACCREDITED, ASSOCIATION OF AMBA ACCREDITED, ILO, 3F, S&D, THE LEFT, epp

### Where is the subcontracting report?

The EFBWW has contacted several MEPs from the S&D to introduce a written question to the European Commission asking about the reasons for the delay in the submission of the study to assess the need to review the Posting of Workers Directive. The report should include an assessment of whether further measures are required to ensure a level playing field and protect workers, more specifically on subcontracting. We know that the study was finalised already in March 2023, but it has not yet been published and is nowhere to be seen. The questions submitted by the S&D were not answered yet by the Commission. The EFBWW is sending gentle reminders to the Commission every week via its social media channels, pointing out that, almost one year later, we are still waiting for the report on subcontracting. The conclusions of the report are of vital importance for the construc-

tion, wood and building materials workers. Please like and share! More [info](#)

### EFBWW at EPP conference defending limits in subcontracting

The EFBWW was at the European Parliament for the EPP Group Conference on "A Social Market Economy that Cares". Important and good discussions. Following a question raised by the EFBWW during the event, Eurofound director Barbara Gerstenberger (Head of Working Life Unit, Eurofound) confirmed that the majority of the jobs that can be described as low quality are jobs in the subcontracting chain: long working hours, low pay, unhealthy and unsafe jobs, jobs that mostly are not covered by collective agreements. The EFBWW reminded the words of previous President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker who stated that we cannot allow the Far West in the Single Market. We pointed out that the Far West is still out there, it exists in the subcontracting chains. We count on the EPP to support our demands to [limit subcontracting](#) and promote quality, direct jobs.

### 883 postponed for after EU elections in June

EFBWW is closely monitoring the ongoing discussions concerning the revision of the regulations on the coordination of social security systems (883). Following recent developments and the Belgian Presidency's decision not to pursue more negotiations, the proposed revision – originally proposed in December 2016 – will not be finalised before the

European elections in June. EFBWW is particularly alarmed by the possibility that the European Parliament's report on this reform may be restarted from scratch in the next mandate. This risks undoing the work that the EFBWW has successfully done to secure provisions ensuring that "building work" remains subject to prior notification, without exemptions. As a fraud-sensitive industry, the construction sector must be properly regulated in order to tackle fraud and protect workers. EFBWW will continue to monitor and advocate for a better regulation which will combat social fraud and improve the working lives of mobile workers.

### EFBWW in health and safety audit at Holcim

The EFBWW joined the health and safety audit at the Holcim plant in Carboneras, Spain. Several years ago, the European Works Council put in place a health and safety group that carries out four company visits per year. The group also meets with the local works councils to discuss the local situation. The results of the health and safety audits are then examined with local and European management. EFBWW GS, Tom Deleu: "I want to congratulate the Holcim EWC members. This is a very good example of how EWCs can have a direct impact on workers and improve the health and safety situation in a multinational company. Given the character and chal-



lenges of our industries, we need more OH&S committees in all EWCs we cover. This is a priority for the EFBWW."

### EFBWW urges Finnish government to stop and reverse anti-workers measures

The EFBWW sent a letter to the Finnish prime-minister, Petteri Orpo to call for a halt to and reversal of the severe measures against workers' rights that the Finnish government has implemented. Flexible dismissals, restrictions on the right to strike, cuts in social security and reduced social protection are not the recipes for the economic and political challenges of today.



The EFBWW stands firm by its Finnish affiliates – [Rakennusliitto](#), [Teollisuusliitto](#), and [Ammattiliitto Pro](#) – and will support them in all actions they decide to undertake to fight the unacceptable measures. The Finnish workers are not alone. They have the European trade union movement by their side. Together we are stronger! An attack on one, is an attack on all! More [info](#)

### EFBWW expresses solidarity with Tesla workers

The EFBWW raises its voice and its fist and joins the fight in solidarity with the workers of the Swedish trade union IF Metall at Tesla. Be-

cause of the blatant and continued refusal of Tesla to engage with the trade unions in genuine collective bargaining, Tesla workers decided to go on strike. The strike started on 27 October last year and is still ongoing. Many trade unions have expressed their solidarity to increase the pressure on Tesla to sign a collective agreement. By refusing to sign the agreement, Tesla rejects the collective bargaining process and the very basic principle of social dialogue. Trade unions will not allow this. In the Presidium meeting of 15 February 2024, the EFBWW decided to stand up in solidarity with the Tesla workers, and all trade unions involved. We stand up for genuine social dialogue and strong collective bargaining agreements. Build together, Fight together, Win together! Together we are stronger! More [info](#)

### Commission proposes amendments to the EWC directive

The European Commission has proposed amendments to the European Works Councils Directive. The proposed changes mainly aim to improve the quality of information and consultation on transnational matters, ensuring it is done in a timely manner. The proposal also looks at making sure EWCs have the necessary resources to do their work, and has improved the subsidiary, minimum requirements for setting up an EWC. The Commission also proposes to delete the legal basis pre-Directive agreements that have remained all this time out of the scope of the EWC Directive. The EFBWW welcomed this last effort, however fears that these agreements might end up in a legal loophole. This must be further clarified. The Commission believes that the proposed measures will improve transnational information and con-

sultation, companies' strategic decision-making, and mutual trust between management and workers. The proposal presents a step forward; nevertheless we had hoped to see a more ambitious proposal from the side of the Commission. European Work Councils remain one of the most powerful tools to engage with management of multinational companies. Improving their conditions will also improve the quality of information and consultation. The EFBWW would like to recall its policy [demands](#) for better functioning European Works Councils.

### EESC approves CCMI report on the needed strategy for the EU wood industry

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted the report on a comprehensive strategy for the EU wood industry done by the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI) of which the EFBWW is co-rapporteur. The report stresses the importance of considering the industrial policy and employment dimensions of the forestry initiatives for forest-based and other concerned industries. We alert for the fact that the European policy choices involve significant trade-offs and will have major implications for those employed in the bio-based and forestry products industries and the other industries concerned in Europe. For fair competition, not only quality and productivity are key, but also measures to ensure that the environmental standards for imported products are aligned. Monitoring mechanisms for working conditions, rights and social inclusions should also be put in place in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights. More [info](#)

## News from our affiliates

### Italy



#### Accidents at work debated in the EP after tragedy in Italy

The European Parliament debated accidents at work after the MEP Marina Mesure from The Left asked for the discussion. The request was submitted after the horrible accident in



Florence, Italy, which killed five construction workers, The EFBWW expresses its condolences to the families of the victims. Once again, this kind of accident involves long subcontracting chains, where migrant workers are put in an unacceptable, vulnerable situation. Enough is enough! No more deaths at work! We want to limit subcontracting, we want direct jobs, maximum protection for all construction sites, public and private. We want to ban intermediaries in posting in construction. We stand by our Italian affiliates in all their actions in this area. More info [here and here](#)

#### Filca-CISL at the frontline for safety on construction sites

After the accident in Florence, the mobilization of Filca-CISL for safety on construction sites continues throughout Italy. Filca launched 10 proposals for the protection of construction workers, one of the sectors with the highest risk with one

death every two days. The core of the proposal is the extension of the rules for public procurement to private jobs with a greater concentration of manpower. Furthermore, the trade union calls for the entry into force of the points-based licence, a reward tool that penalizes irregular companies where accidents occur.

#### Feneal UIL and Fillea CGIL took to the streets after accident

The Italian affiliates Feneal UIL and Fillea CGIL together with the metalworkers' federations Uilm Uil and Fiom CGIL organised a two-hour strike in Italy on 21 February 2024. The action followed the horrific accident of 16 February in a large con-

struction site for the building of a shopping centre in Florence.

### Netherlands



#### Two workers killed after collapse of bridge under construction

A Belgian and a Polish workers were killed and two others were injured in the collapse of part of a bridge under construction in Lochem, a city in the east of the Netherlands. A criminal investigation has been launched. We send all our solidarity to the victims and their families. More [info](#)

### Sweden



#### Byggnads and GS organise demo to ask government to build more houses

Several hundreds of workers gathered in a demonstration in Sweden with clear demands: Build away the crisis - build housing. The goal was to contest the lack of action of the Swedish government to solve the housing crisis. The Swedish minister for Housing joined the demo and the Swedish trade unions had the opportunity to deliver more than 18,000 signatures of people who want to eradicate the housing crisis. The time is now! It's time for politicians to listen. It's time to listen to what Swedish construction workers have to say. It's time to listen to all the young girls and boys who want to move to their own apartment. It's time to listen to all those who want to move to where the jobs are. It's simply time to listen to all those who want to have a home.

## Czechia



### Organising at the heart of OS STAVBA ČR congress

The Congress of the Czech building workers union OS STAVBA ČR took place last month with a strong focus on organising. The Czech trade union announced that it is preparing for mobilisations against the announced attacks by the government on workers' rights, pensions, and labour code. In his speech Tom Deleu, EFBWW General Secretary, focused on the upcoming European elections and the need for social progress. "We have clear demands to better regulate subcontracting and promote direct and quality jobs with good salaries and good social protection. The European Union must be fairer to workers. But the far right is never the answer. They are populists, anti-democratic, anti-

trade union and anti-social. Let's talk to our members, on worksites to think carefully before they cast their vote."

## Belgium



### Criteria for recognition of actinic keratosis as occupational disease should be lower

In Belgium, multiple actinic keratosis and squamous cell carcinoma were added to the list of occupational diseases. Actinic keratosis are spots that appear when the skin is exposed to ultraviolet rays over a long period of time, and some can develop into a form of skin cancer. The Belgian trade unions (Algemene Centrale ABVV / ACV-CSC BIE ) were involved in the discussions. The illness will be recognised as an occupational disease if three criteria are met: work in the private sector,

have at least six actinic keratosis per area of skin exposed to the sun, having been occupationally exposed to the sun for a total of at least 20,000 hours (according to current generally accepted medical knowledge). Professions eligible for recognition are for example: construction worker working mainly outdoor, woodcutter in forestry and nature management, roofer, etc. Belgian trade unions have jointly maintained their position that this number of hours is far too high and that the disease could have appeared well before this deadline. These 20,000 hours are concentrated in certain months of the year and represents around 25 years work in an outdoor occupation. In addition, we supported the idea that skin type was not a factor in the risk of developing these pathologies at an early stage.

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](mailto:pcravina@efbww.eu).

## Miscellaneous

### ETUI free online course: EU for Trade Unionists

ETUI Education will organise the 6th edition of the online course "EU for Trade Unionists". It will run from 22 April till 9 June 2024, and it will involve about 18 hours of individual work. This training activity is provided in English and it's free of charge. The institutions of the European

Union and how they function is complex, creating, therefore, a huge gap between EU policymakers and citizens. The goal is to empower trade unionists not only to critically analyse how the EU works and see how decisions are taken, but above all, to understand how they can play a role and intervene in the process. More [info](#)

## EFBWW Meeting schedule 2024

6 March 2024	Scaffolding project: Workshop technological developments and standardisation	Odense, Denmark
7-8 March 2024	Cement Skills 2030 Project: Workshop	Brussels, Belgium
12 March 2024	Safety and Health Coordination group meeting	Brussels, Belgium (EESC)
20 March 2027	Social dumping breakfast event (org: EFBWW, S&D, Left, EPP)	European Parliament
27 March 2024	RESILIENTWOOD Project: Workshop 3 - "Gender equality"	ONLINE
9 April 2024	Standing Committee Building	Brussels, Belgium (EESC)
10 April 2024	Standing Committee Wood/Furniture/Forestry	Brussels, Belgium (EESC)
12 April 2024	EFBWW Presidium	ONLINE
16 - 17 April 2024	RESILIENTWOOD project: Workshop 4 "Increasing the attractiveness of the woodworking sector through education: student mobility and the role of an 'Erasmus for apprenticeships'"	Brussels, Belgium
25 April 2024	DESOCO II project: Thematic meeting on digitalisation and Sectoral Social Dialogue Construction	Vilnius, Lithuania
7 May 2024	Scaffolding project: social dialogue in the scaffolding sector	TBC
13 May 2024 (2:30-5:30 p.m.)	Executive Committee: Thematic discussion European elections and trade union strategy against the Far Right	Brussels, Belgium (EESC)
13 May 2024 (6:30 p.m.)	Reception and and Barbecue at EFBWW office	EFBWW Office, Brussels
14 May 2024 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.)	Executive Committee	Brussels, Belgium (EESC)
21 May 2024	Social Dialogue Wood - Plenary	Brussels, Belgium
22 May 2024	Social Dialogue Furniture - Plenary	Brussels, Belgium
23 May 2024 (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.)	EFBWW-FIEC workshop on social ID-cards (SIDE-CIC)	Brussels, Belgium
4 June 2024	Scaffold project: Final conference	TBC
<b>6-9 June 2024</b>	<b>Elections European Parliament</b>	<b>European Union</b>
7 June 2024	Social Dialogue Construction - WG Employment	Brussels, Belgium
4 September 2024	RESILIENTWOOD Project: Final conference	TBC
17-18 September 2024 (TBC)	Joint EFBWW/EFFAT/ETF Demonstration	Strasbourg, France
19 September 2024 (9-11 a.m.)	EFBWW Presidium	Stockholm, Sweden
19 September 2024 (p.m.) - 20 September 2024 (a.m.)	EFBWW-BWI Joint Presidium	Stockholm, Sweden
25 September 2024	OSH Open Expert Meeting	Brussels, Belgium
4 October 2024	Social Dialogue Wood/Furniture - Joint woodworking and furniture session	Hybrid
16 October 2024	Social Dialogue Construction - WG VET/YOUTH	ONLINE
October/November 2024 (TBC)	DESOCO II project: Thematic meeting on labour shortages and Sectoral Social Dialogue Construction	RO/BG (TBC)
5-6 November 2024	BWI World Board & World Council	Geneva, Switzerland
27 November 2024	Executive Committee	Brussels, Belgium (EESC)