



European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)  
Confédération européenne des syndicats (CES)

## Joint Declaration ETUC/EUCDW<sup>1</sup> “For a social Europe and a social market economy”

1. ETUC and EUCDW advocate a Europe based on the concept of the social market economy. Its roots lie in the embedding of free market forces into a framework, provided and controlled by the state, defined by personal responsibility as well as shared common values throughout the society. For us, the Social Market Economy in its European forms is more than just a pledge. Its objectives are sustainable growth, full employment, social progress, welfare and social protection. We want these principles to be further developed and deepened, respecting the social dimensions at all levels of decision-making in Europe and fostering social cohesion.
2. European integration as a peace project is widely accepted. The future of Europe and its Member States is strictly based on solidarity, justice, human dignity, democracy, and the rule of law. The market has no social impetus by itself. A functioning market has to respect the aims of common welfare, guaranteed by an efficient state, based on the fundamental rights, as laid down in the Treaty of Lisbon. Such values must also apply in European and in global markets.
3. ETUC and EUCDW see the danger of the current crisis being used to stop the development and adoption of social standards or even to dismantle the already existing ones. We promise not to accept and to counter such attempts. We have to strengthen our commitment for a Social Europe to correct the damage caused by unregulated financial markets, insufficient supervision and unethical shareholder values, which triggered the worst economic crisis since 1930's. We have to come back to the founding principles of the Social Market Economy, based on strong social partners and their co-responsibility.
4. ETUC and EUCDW are convinced that an effective European and global regulation of the financial markets and all financial service providers is crucial to prevent such financial crises in the future.
5. ETUC and EUCDW see the crisis not only as a danger but also as an opportunity for a reconditioned, stable and economically vital Europe. Therefore, Europe has to ensure workers have better job qualifications and better qualified jobs for tomorrow's technologies, workplace conditions and environmental protection. This includes boosts in education, job training and programs for life-long learning as they are provided by the European Union.

<sup>1</sup> European Trade Union Confederation/**European Union of Christian Democratic Workers**

Education is a holistic concept; the human being is more than just an economic variable.

6. We need a strong European Union, understanding social, economic and environmental issues as a triad, not as opposites. To achieve this the upcoming legislative period of the European Parliament and the European Commission has to be used to put social, economic and ecological issues at the centre of political actions. For us, sustainability is far more than just a catchword. ETUC and EUCDW consider climate change to be a major threat not only to our societies and our economies, but also to developing countries. Thus, we welcome the proposition of a Commissioner for Climate Action as a first step in the acknowledgement of the necessity to act.
7. ETUC and EUCDW insist that social fundamental rights must in future be equally taken into account in legislation and interpretation of legislation. The Charter of Fundamental Rights being made legally binding constitutes progress in this direction. Furthermore it must be ensured that economic freedoms do not take precedence over fundamental social rights. This is our understanding of the Social Market Economy. ETUC and EUCDW ask for a Social Progress Clause in Primary Law.
8. The ETUC and the EUCDW are committed to fighting social dumping in Europe in all its forms and on all levels. Therefore, we warmly welcome the introduction of social impact assessments for all future proposals aiming for a high level of employment.
9. EUCDW and ETUC insist to implement the general principle of equal pay for equal work in the same workplace. In the current situation a stronger protection of precarious workers is needed. The principle of equal pay for equal work must be followed by new initiatives against wage dumping. We also need new proposals from the Commission for gender equality, to ensure equal rights and pay for women and men at the same workplace.
10. This principle must become a guiding principle for the European Union. Therefore, we commit to starting the process for a clarification of the Posting Directive. The aim has to be highly secured standards for posted workers respecting the different national law and labor traditions of the EU member states.
11. The main objective of this legislative period is the creation of more and better jobs. After the rejection of the Parliament's position on Working Time by the Council, ETUC and EUCDW ask the Commission to table new proposals to end the opt-out which jeopardizes the social laws to protect workers and weaken the position of the social partners in the social dialogue process.
12. The ETUC and the EUCDW commit themselves to working for a stronger social Europe. This agreement does not exclude further joint initiatives like calls for efficient workers' participation, stronger co-determination, protection against dismissal, portability of pension plans, maternity protection and stronger European workers' councils.