



# TOGETHER FOR A FAIR DEAL FOR WORKERS

EL/LR/eb  
Brussels, 05 March 2025

**Ursula von der Leyen**  
President of the European Commission  
**Antonio Costa**  
President of the European Council

[Letter sent by e-mail]

## ETUC letter in view of the European Council meeting on 6 March

Dear President Costa,  
Dear President von der Leyen,

In view of the European Council on 6 March, and on the basis of its [Charter of Values](#) and the [Resolution Ensuring security: New impulse for peace needed](#), the ETUC reiterates its call for the EU and governments to increase their efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace to be delivered together with Ukraine, and underscores the need for support for international law based on multilateralism and a stronger role for the EU to work for peace also in other areas of conflict.

We also recall some key ETUC demands that are relevant for your consideration:

- Resources for social objectives contribute to essential stability in society which is the backbone of every democratic society. **Resources for initiatives on defence or security must not come from a reduction of resources for social objectives.**
- **The economic governance rules must be fully suspended and reformed urgently in order to allow for the necessary investments**, for investments in quality jobs, just transitions, industrial policy, strong public services, social protection, security and other EU objectives. This also calls for an EU investment facility financed through common debt and/or new EU own resources, as well as for actions to ensure fairer and more progressive taxation.
- The issue of ensuring security in a context of rising threats and challenges is increasingly evident. The ETUC calls on European leaders to focus on a **broader concept of security** that also takes into account the necessity **of social resilience and economic security**, and addresses threats to democracy, cybersecurity, misinformation, as well as the effects of climate change, extreme natural disasters and global health risks.
- **Strong social conditionalities** must apply to funding for defence and security as for any other public funds / state aid / support to companies, in order to ensure quality jobs, better employment and working conditions, collective bargaining, full respect of workers and trade union rights. EU and national security funding should support the development of European industry and ensure that quality jobs in Europe are being protected and created.

We call on the European Council to include these key elements in their deliberations.

We also would like to ask you a meeting as a matter of urgency to discuss the developments and the impact on working people, and to present the trade union perspective.

Yours sincerely,

Esther Lynch,  
General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation