



Towards better participation in Standardisation

ETUC standardisation newsletter - September 2017

Dear colleagues and friends,

The ETUC is pleased to send you its newsletter on standardisation that will keep you regularly updated on the ETUC's activities in the field of standardisation. It will deliver information on European and international standardisation direct to your desktop. If you wish additional information and/or documents related to the news mentioned below, feel free to contact us at standards@etuc.org.

Cleaning up the Aircraft Cabin air



The international aircraft cabin air conference took place on 19-20 September in London. More than 300 participants – academics, flying staff, trade unions, industry – were there to debate, to network and to address the cabin air issue. The conference was sponsored by several trade unions, flying staff federations, academics, etc. The ETUC, ETF and ITF participated too.

On occasions, cabin air can contain toxic fumes, putting flight staff and passengers' health at risk. At the conference, a number of examples were presented. The current state of the debate can be compared with campaigns on smoking or asbestos and health, some 30 years ago: the contaminated air

effects are contested.

The main problems associated with improving the quality of cabin air include a missing reporting system, the lack of regulations and standards.

Refitting the airplanes so that they have 'clean' cabin air is possible, but this requires significant investment (> 20,000 planes are concerned, except the new Boeing 787). EasyJet is one of the first and only airlines that has now decided to install air filters for the well-being of its passengers and staff.

At European level, CEN is drawing up standards for cabin air quality. The work progress is slower than expected. But this is also 'normal', as all stakeholders are around the table, which is not always the case in other platforms. Furthermore, consensus building and recognition of the cabin air issue takes time.

The ETUC will start participating in CEN/TC 436 'Cabin Air Quality on Commercial Aircraft'.

Details of the conference are here: <https://www.aircraftcabinair.com/>

The ETUC speaks about care standards



The ETUC spoke at the UNICARE Europe meeting on 5 September in Nyon, Switzerland. The UNICARE Working Group is part of the UNI Global Union,

which represents workers from over 900 trade unions in the private services sector. At the meeting, the ETUC presented new developments on European standards with a focus on standards in the care sector.

With the growing proportion of elderly people in our society and the increasing need to guarantee them a dignified lifestyle, age-friendly nursing and care has become paramount. The role of the service provider is a crucial one: meeting the older person's needs and wellbeing are only part of the many tasks.

CEN is currently developing standards on quality of care for older people and patient involvement in person-centred care.

Better care for older people

CEN TC 449 is developing a standard for services provided to elderly people in homes and assisted living facilities. Old-age care requires a common understanding and cooperation between all actors to promote a better quality of services.

The objective of the standard is to set a level playing field for the many different service providers within this area of care – across Europe. The work will cover provisions on the work environment and support given to the staff. It will include social and nursing care, rehabilitation, service and other related areas. The work is still at an early stage.

The ETUC is participating in the drafting of the standard, calling for it to be in accordance with the existing labour rights and consultation procedures. For instance, we asked for the standard to be ambitious in setting a good working environment and fair working conditions. We would also like to ensure that the role and rights of the staff are clarified.

Becoming an ETUC Standards Expert



International and European standards play a growing role not only in the economy, but also in the organisation of production and working conditions. The drafting of European standards is carried out with the direct involvement of experts within technical committees and working groups.

The ETUC is therefore looking for trade union members and workers' representatives interested in the world of standards to join the ETUC expert network! We work on a range of areas of relevance for workers. These include standards which address duties and qualifications of the workforce as well as social aspects. Currently, the ETUC actively participates in standards-setting on maintenance & facility management, horizontal services, healthcare, private security services, etc. Other areas where workers and labour issues are involved will follow.

Are you interested in joining us? To get involved and for any further information on ETUC and/or standard-setting activities contact us at standards@etuc.org. Please find more information in our new [leaflet 'Becoming an ETUC Standards Expert'](#).

EUROCOP reflects on the use of standards as a policy tool

The ETUC has met with EUROCOP, to investigate how and if European standards can be used as a policy tool to improve, for example, the safety and health of police officers at work.

The European Directive 89/391/EEC encourages improvements in the safety and health of workers at work. But it does not address the specific groups such as police and armed forces. However, it urges that the Directive's objectives should be applied, as far as possible, to police and armed forces.

A European standard or other CEN deliverable can supplement/support the Directive with details on how to address safety and health issues for police and/or army staff. Further discussions must still take place with several stakeholders before the project takes off.

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