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# Collective Bargaining News: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2017

## Wage Negotiations

- **Germany:** All blue and white-collar workers in car repair shops will get wage increases in two steps of 5.8 % (in total) over the next two years. [Read more](#)
- **Serbia:** Trade unions' calls for negotiations on decent wages and working conditions at Fiat's plant in Serbia were finally heard. An agreement was concluded on 25 July 2017 after three weeks of strike action and mobilisation. [Read more](#)

## Trade Union Actions

- **Portugal:** Workers from the Portuguese Volkswagen factory went on strike on 30 August 2017 in order to protest against plans from the side of the company to introduce work on Saturdays. [Read more](#)

## National Policies

- **France:** The government has initiated changes to the national labour law. In attachment, news report from Planet Labor. [Read more](#)

## European Union policies

- **The European Commission** is planning to set up a European Labour Authority, according to Mr. Juncker. This plan has yet to be specified in detail. [Read more](#)
- **The European Commission** launched a second-stage consultation on the Written Statement Directive. Commissioner Thyssen claims that she wants all workers across the EU to be clearly covered by the basic rules, independent of their employment status. [Read more](#)

## Articles

- **Thorsten Schulten and Malte Luebker (Hans-Böckler Foundation):** Economic forecasts have been revised upwards and employment is expanding. However, wages refuse to follow suit. [Read more](#)
- **Mario Draghi (ECB):** There is speculation that Draghi now actually wants to see real wage increases in Europe in order to boost the economy. [Read more](#)

## Economic and social data

- **Eurostat:** The EU annual inflation was 1.7% in August 2017. A year earlier the rate was 0.3%. [Read more](#)
- **Eurostat:** GDP rose by 0.7% in the EU during the second quarter of 2017. Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, GDP grew by 2.4%. [Read more](#)
- **Eurostat:** The number of persons employed in the EU increased by 0.4% in the second quarter of 2017. Compared with 2016, the growth was 1.5%. [Read more](#)

## Study reports

- **Eurofound:** The working poor are a substantial group. The latest estimate puts 10% of European workers at risk of poverty, an increase from 8% in 2007. [Read more](#)
- **Eurofound:** A study report describes the developments of non-standard employment the last decade. [Read more](#)
- **Eurofound:** A new report provides an overview of the recent evolution of working time duration and organisation in the EU. It highlights the most important trends and differences between Member States. [Read more](#)



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- **ETUI:** A recent paper provides an overview of the Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs) in the field of employment and social policies. [Read more](#)
  - **ETUI:** Workers in 11 central and eastern EU countries are paid up to €944 less per month than workers in Germany when costs of living are taken into account. [Read more](#) See ETUI report [here](#).
  - **The EU Commission** has published its latest edition of the annual Employment and Social Developments in Europe Review. It presents a detailed analysis of key data and concerns for the European Union and its Member States. [Read more](#)

## **Legal issues**

- **The European Court of Human Rights** has sided with a Romanian employee in a case of great significance. The Court found that his employer's monitoring of his Internet use at work violated his right to privacy. (Majority ruling after appeal). [Read more](#)
- **The EU Court:** Trade unions welcome a recent ruling as a major defeat for Ryanair on workers' rights. The Court established that disputes over a cabin crew member's contract of employment fall within the jurisdiction of the courts of the country from which they carry out their duties. [Read more](#) Court ruling [here](#)