

## Press Release

### Time to boost workers' purchasing power and get Europe on track towards an actual Social Europe

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Long ago, even before the crisis, the wage share in Europe was on the decline while the benefits of economic growth gradually migrated towards capital. As a result of the economic crisis, the share of wages in terms of wealth shrunk even further. Consequently, inequality rose and in-work poverty has reached unprecedented levels, affecting 10% of all European workers today.

With companies recovering and shareholder value exceeding pre-crisis levels, it is high time for workers to receive their share of the recovery. [They need a pay rise](#). Making sure that wages provide workers with a decent quality of living is an absolute priority! We must ensure that wage development keeps up with inflation and productivity [throughout Europe](#) so as to put an end to the constant unfair redistribution of income.

Politicians and governments are called upon to act. A mere couple of days after the publication of the European Pillar of Social Rights, we are calling on governmental actors and political players to show that Europe delivers on its promises for more social justice, through economic and social convergence between European citizens, regions and countries.

Setting minimum standards on the information an employer is required to provide employees, on access to social protection systems for all workers, and on work-life balance, is essential to achieving upward convergence and equal treatment of workers. Upward convergence also must be achieved by promoting and reinforcing collective bargaining structures as these are the only tool to ensure a more equal distribution of income and all-round higher wage levels. This ought to be combined, where necessary, with the implementation of a minimum wage, which would guarantee a decent living for every worker in the EU.

If Europe is to have a future, and overcome the many forces seeking to fragment, destabilise and destruct, then efforts have to be made to win over support from citizens by showing that equality is a reality within the EU, rather than an empty promise.

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IndustriAll European Trade Union represents the voice of 7 million working men and women across supply chains in manufacturing, mining and energy sectors across Europe. We aim to protect and advance the rights of the workers. Our federation has 177 trade union affiliates in 38 European countries. Our objective is to be a powerful player in the European political arena vis-à-vis European companies, European industries, employers' associations and European institutions.