

Collective Bargaining News: 4th Quarter 2018

Wage Negotiations

- **Austria:** PRO-GE and GPA-djp have successfully concluded this year's bargaining round in the metal industries. It was a hard-fought dispute that also involved warning strikes. [Read more](#)
- **The Netherlands:** The metal unions have been on strike for a new collective agreement since the spring of 2018. The offer from the employers is completely inadequate. [Read more](#)

Trade Union Actions

- **Croatia:** On Saturday 20 October, a protest against the pension reform took place in Zagreb, Croatia. IndustriAll Europe and IndustriALL Global Union expressed their support to the struggle for a fair pension reform after consulting the national trade unions. [Read more](#)

European Policies

- **IndustriAll Europe** organised its collective bargaining conference in Bratislava on 6 & 7 December 2018. This is the federation's largest event between the congresses. Over 200 people from 31 European countries participated. Several policy papers were endorsed. [Read more](#)
- **IndustriAll Europe** decided to shine a light on the growth of precarious work as a worrying trend that is negatively impacting our society to mark the World Day for Decent Work in 2018. [Read more](#)
- **The European Council (EPSCO):** The Council agreed on 6 December 2018 its position on the establishment of a European Labour Agency (ELA). The aim of this new body is to support Member States in implementing EU legislation in the areas of cross-border labour mobility and social security coordination. [Read more](#)

National Policies

- **UK:** The top bosses of the biggest companies only need to work 32 hours to earn as much as a median full-time employee salary. [Read more](#)
- **France:** A tool for measuring wage inequalities between women and men in companies was officially presented on 22 November 2018 by the French government. Equal pay for women and men in companies is now mandatory. Non-compliance can incur penalties. [Read more](#)
- **Austria:** GPA-djp has made a description of key developments in the year that has passed since the new conservative/far-right government came to power. [Read more](#)

Study Reports

- **OECD Employment Outlook 2018:** Bargaining systems that coordinate wages across sectors tend to be linked with lower wage inequality and better employment outcomes, including for vulnerable groups. However, this may come at the expense of lower productivity growth. [Read more \(summary\)](#)
- **Eurofound:** Two-thirds of the EU labour force are in permanent, full-time employment; the remaining one-third is in non-standard employment. Temporary and part-time workers as well as self-employed workers without employees are more likely to experience poor job quality than permanent employees. [Read more](#)
- **Eurofound:** A new report describes ‘Developments in collectively agreed pay 2000-2017’, including the most recent bargaining rounds in 2016-17. [Read more](#)
- **ILO:** Global wage growth slumped to 1.8 percent in 2017, the lowest growth in a decade. [Read more](#)
- **The EU Commission:** Total hours worked remain below the pre-crisis level. Hidden unemployment of part-time workers and discouraged workers remains a challenge. Wages have started to grow again, although labour slack, low inflation and low productivity growth prevent wages from rising. [Read more](#)



Articles

- **Michael Dauderstädt:** EU statistics mask the alarming extent of poverty and inequality in Europe. Its dangerous scale threatens Europe's social and political cohesion. [Read more](#)

Legal issues

- **CJEU:** EU law precludes a worker from automatically losing the days of paid annual leave to which they were entitled and, consequently, their right to an allowance in lieu of the leave which is not taken, because they did not apply for leave before the employment relationship ended. [Read more](#)