IndustriAll European Trade Union’s Motions 2016-2020
As adopted by the 2nd industriAll Europe Congress on 8th June 2016

Strengthen the strategic importance of sectoral social dialogue!

IndustriAll European Trade Union is active in nearly a quarter of all European sectoral social dialogues and thereby takes on responsibility for the future of jobs in the industrial sectors of its area of organisation and its value chain. The results of the social dialogue depend largely on the good will of social partners. Where this has not been the case, social dialogue has had very limited results.

The large number of joint positions with the respective employers’ associations demonstrate, on the one hand, the assertiveness of industriAll European Trade Union and, on the other hand, the keen interest shown by industry to work together for its future in Europe.

The joint positions range from working conditions relating to occupational health and safety through training and retraining agreements for the safeguarding or creation of jobs to industrial policy demands made to the European Commission. Furthermore, work has been carried out through projects and studies on concrete measures for ensuring prosperity and employment in industry. However, in a number of sectors, employers are unwilling to discuss issues beyond their sole industrial concerns. IndustriAll Europe condemns this and call on the employers to also engage in social issues.

IndustriAll European Trade Union is highlighting the potential of joint positions. Such positions have to be taken into account by the EU Commission.

Consequently, it will continue to be important in the future to strengthen the strategic approach of social dialogue and, where possible, to extend it, even if there are some sectors where up to now social dialogue could not be used in an optimal and effective way.

In the political debate about Commission policy, we need to use the sectoral social dialogue as a complementary instrument for the implementation of trade union objectives at European level, in particular with regard to a policy of investment in jobs, in infrastructure and in the future of industry in Europe.

Obligatory, public impact assessments of negotiated social partner agreements are incompatible, in our view, with the social aspirations of the Commission and moreover with the provisions of the EU Treaty.

Therefore, in the years ahead, industriAll European Trade Union will:

- hold the Commission even more accountable with regard to workers’ rights and specific industrial policy decisions based on the conclusions of sectoral social dialogues;
- remind European employers’ associations of their responsibilities, when the European social model and ILO Core Labor standards are challenged at national level;
- consolidate common and consistent positions of different sectoral social dialogues, and, if possible, agree on cross-sectoral statements, to give extra weight to the importance of the demands;
- examine positive examples of agreements in individual sectoral social dialogues, and where appropriate introduce them in other social dialogues; and use every sectoral social dialogue to emphasise industriAll European Trade Union’s policy objectives in order to ensure growth and social justice.