Collective Bargaining News: 2\textsuperscript{nd} Quarter 2017

\section*{Wage Negotiations}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{Belgium}: The metal unions have reached a new agreement in the metal construction sector. The workers will get 1.1\% in addition to the automatic indexation. There will also be qualitative improvements in terms of training, pensions etc. \hyperlink{Read more}{Read more}
  \item \textbf{The Netherlands}: A new agreement for metal and engineering was concluded in May 2017. Wages will increase by 4.16\% over 25 months. The agreement contains a wide range of qualitative arrangements in addition to wages. \hyperlink{Read more}{Read more}
\end{itemize}

\section*{European Union policies}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{The European Commission} launched its long-awaited Pillar of Social Rights on 26 April 2017. Basically, the Pillar aims at strengthening the social dimension of the EU. However, it contains few concrete proposals. \hyperlink{Read more}{Read more} The Pillar includes:
    \begin{itemize}
      \item An interpretative communication on the Working Time Directive. \hyperlink{Read more}{Read more}
      \item A consultation of Social Partners on the Written Statement Directive. \hyperlink{Read more}{Read more}
      \item A public consultation on access to social security. \hyperlink{Read more}{Read more}
      \item A package of measures to promote work-life balance. \hyperlink{Read more}{Read more}
    \end{itemize}
\end{itemize}

\section*{National policies}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{Sweden} introduces new legislation to improve conditions for posted workers. \hyperlink{Read more}{Read more}
  \item \textbf{Ireland} aims at banning zero-hour contracts in most circumstances. \hyperlink{Read more}{Read more}
\end{itemize}

\section*{Articles}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{Thorsten Müller (ETUI) and Thorsten Schulten (HBS)}: The Pillar could contribute to a strengthening of minimum wages in Europe. \hyperlink{Read more}{Read more}
\end{itemize}
➢ Amandine Crespy (ULB, Brussels): The Pillar looks like a broad policy process which blurs responsibilities by conflating regional, national and EU competences. There is a high chance that it will result in opaque politics. Read more

➢ Montserrat Mir Roca (ETUC): Work-life balance affects the lives of millions of Europeans, and has a direct bearing on economic growth and popular support for the EU. Read more

➢ Ronald Janssen (TUAC): Weak wages produce a weak recovery. Read more

Economic and social data

➢ Eurostat: In 2016, average hourly labour costs were estimated to be €25.40 in the EU with the lowest hourly labour costs recorded in Bulgaria (€4.40) and the highest in Denmark (€42.00). Read more

➢ Eurostat: The unemployment level fell in 80% of the EU regions in 2016. However, there are big differences between the regions, in particular as far as youth unemployment is concerned. Read more

➢ Eurofound (yearbook): Despite the economic recovery since 2013, a number of countries are struggling to regain their pre-crisis employment levels. Read more

Study reports

➢ ETUI: Wages in all CEE economies started to grow dynamically from the mid-1990s up until the crisis in 2008. Wage convergence in this period was spectacular. In the wake of the crisis, however, wage convergence either experienced a sudden halt or slowed down substantially. Read more

➢ ETUI: Reduced employment protection has brought neither labour market benefits nor economic benefits. Read more

➢ ETUI: A new book analyses the development of trade unions in eleven countries (Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the UK) since the early 2000s. Read more