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# Collective Bargaining News: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2018

## Wage Negotiations

- **Germany:** In early February 2018, IG Metall signed a landmark agreement in the metal and electrical sector. The agreement combines pay rise, working time flexibility and special arrangements for carers. [Read more](#), also [here](#)
- **Turkey:** Metalworkers managed to negotiate an astonishing 25% wage increase despite their strike having been banned by the government. [Read more](#)

## Trade Union Actions

- **France:** The most wide-ranging strikes for decades will take place in France this spring. Trade unions and students continue to protest President Emmanuel Macron's reform agenda. [Read more](#)
- **Spain:** On 8 March 2018, millions of Spanish women joined an unprecedented, nationwide strike to call for equality. The walkouts lasted for 24 hours. [Read more](#)
- **Spain:** On 17 March 2018, tens of thousands of retirees and unions rallied across the country to demand better pensions and to avoid privatisation of retirement benefits. [Read more](#)

## European Policies

- **The EU:** On 19 March 2018, a trilogue agreement was struck on the revision of the Posting of Workers Directive. The compromise, which still needs to be formally adopted by the EU institutions, contains several, significant improvements. [Read more](#)
- **The European Commission:** On 13 March 2018, a Social Fairness Package was published. The proposal has two elements, a European Labour Authority and a regulation on access to social protection for all. [Read more](#)

- **The Council of Europe** supports the idea of a basic income. A vote in its assembly took place in January 2018. [Read more](#)

## **Articles**

- **Richard Pond (EPSU):** Europe needs to spend €1.5 trillion on social infrastructure between now and 2030 to redress the massive underspend over recent years and to address increasing demands for social services. [Read more](#)
- **Luca Visentini (ETUC):** The trade union message to European leaders - we need more tripartite dialogue, capacity building of national social partners and support for collective bargaining and industrial relations. [Read more](#)
- **Thiébaud Weber (ETUC):** It is time for a European dialogue on the platform economy. [Read more](#)
- **Thomas Piketty:** After a decade of crisis, the European Central Bank is no longer the same institution that was drawn up by the Treaties. It has established itself as chief economist of the eurozone with executive power. [Read more](#)

## **Economic and social data**

- **Eurostat:** EU inflation was 1.3% in February 2018, down from 2.0% in February 2017. Prices increased most in Romania with 3.8%. Only one Member State still has deflation (Cyprus). [Read more](#)



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## **Study reports**

- **Eurofound:** Statutory minimum wages have increased by more than 200% in Romania since 2010. In Greece, they have fallen by 20%. [Read more](#)
- **Hans Böckler Foundation:** Minimum wage report 2018. [Read more](#)
- **Eurofound:** A report on quality of life in Europe reveals significant shortcomings of the European social model. [Read more](#)
- **The ETUI:** Benchmarking Europe 2018 has been published with statistics and analyses of the European economy and labour market. [Read more](#)
- **The World Bank:** The rise of technology risks leaving Europe's poorest countries and unskilled workers behind. New technology benefits high-income earners and the most advanced companies in affluent regions. [Read more](#)

## **Legal issues**

- **The Court of Justice of the EU:** On-call time is working time, even when the worker is at home, if the worker has to be able to respond to a call from the employer immediately and if s/he has very significantly restricted opportunities for other activities. (Case C-518/15). [Read more](#)