



Brussels, 27 May 2020

To the Members of the Women's Committee

For information to ETUC Member Organisations

Dear Colleagues,

I am contacting you with news that trade unions have won an important step in our fight to make unequal, low paid, insecure work in the EU history. Through our collective trade union effort, we have overturned any plans that aimed to put women workers to the back of the queue for pay justice in the recovery.

Commissioner Helena Dalli has confirmed that the European Commission Work Programme now contains the following commitments:

Binding pay transparency measures (legislative initiative, 4th quarter 2020)

European Gender Equality Strategy (non-legislative initiative, 1st quarter 2020)

This means that we must now move to the next stage of our campaign which is to ensure that the Pay Transparency Directive will contain the necessary measures to bring about the meaningful change that unions want and workers need. If you are issuing a press statement to welcome the Work Programme, please use this opportunity to already set out our demands for the Directive to include a guarantee that trade unions can successfully challenge the undervaluing of jobs done predominantly by women workers. This is to be added to bringing about an end to all pay secrecy clauses and other practices that work against pay equality.

We will be in touch shortly with the next set of actions, including a possible hearing for the Social Partners in June, confident that together with your affiliates and allies we can take action and build on this success.

Our upcoming Women's Committee will provide us with the opportunity to discuss our actions and develop our plan to ensure that inequalities including gender inequalities are not further exacerbated by the measures adopted to recover from the COVID-19 crisis. This is our chance to fundamentally rethink the world of work and to build a more equal post pandemic society.

Keep well.

Yours sincerely,

Esther Lynch