

HL This July 5, 2024

### **Minutes of the ETUC Executive Committee meeting June 24 and 25, 2024**

**Participating for FERPA** : Hubert SCHWIND, FERPA President; Agostino SICILIANO, FERPA Secretary General; Henri LOURDELLE, FERPA Special Advisor, who also took notes.

**ETUC President [Wolfgang](#) KATZIAN** opened the meeting with the **adoption of** the agenda, the minutes of the last statutory meetings (Executive Committee of March 26-27, 2024, Management Committees of March 26 and May 28, 2024), changes to the statutory bodies and the affiliation of GTUC (Georgia) as an ETUC member organization. All these documents were adopted unanimously.

**Esther LYNCH, General Secretary of the ETUC**, opens the debate on "**An industrial policy for quality jobs**", which is divided into **three documents**:

- The first is a discussion document, entitled "**Strategic discussion on industrial policy for quality jobs**".
- The second is a draft Resolution, entitled "**A just transition policy framework and directive to anticipate and manage change**".
- The third is a draft Resolution entitled "**Trade and industrial policy**".

**Esther Lynch** begins by introducing the first document, entitled "**Strategic discussion on industrial policy for quality jobs**". She explains that the aim of this strategic discussion is to exchange trade union experiences and priorities on industrial policy for quality jobs, and to better define the ETUC's objectives for a strong industrial policy in Europe, with significant and effective public and private investment that supports quality jobs and social progress. To achieve this, we need to find the right policy mix, ensuring a coherent set of macroeconomic, trade, investment, cross-sectoral and sectoral, labor market and financial policies. But for the ETUC, Europe is not just the EU. What's needed is the right mix of policies at EU level, but also at national and regional level, and throughout Europe. We need an industrial policy that covers all sectors, not just manufacturing, and that supports all transitions, not just the ecological transition. We also expect the state and public authorities to play a leading role, and not leave industrial policy to the market alone. The social partners must also be fully involved.

The Executive Committee also heard from **László Andor**, currently Secretary General of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), who was European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion between 2010 and 2014, and who was invited to speak on the subject. In particular, he stressed that the European business model also needed to be reformed to ensure the sustainability of the European economy. Europe is not in deficit, because we have colossal trade surpluses. But, unlike the USA, for example, in Europe we have neither the doctrine nor the tools to be interventionist. We also need to invest in well-being to prevent people who work from dying too soon.

In the ensuing **debate**, all the organizations that took part felt that the document was acceptable to them. However, several clarifications were made during the debate. Several returned to the notion of competitiveness, pointing out that it is no longer just a question of

wages, but of competition: we need to develop skills to strengthen European competitiveness. Moreover, European competitiveness must also be based on good social competitiveness. Of course, there is freedom of movement, but there is also the right to stay. We need to focus on "keeping everyone on board". The Green Pact is vital, because there will be redundancies due to the lack of water. But when it comes to energy policy, you need to have a clear idea. State aid can be useful, but competition must be fair. It was also pointed out that industrial policy is not limited to the manufacturing sector. We need to look at all industrial sectors to achieve a sound industrial policy. We need to focus not only on competitiveness, but also on resilience. As the latest pandemic showed, we are dependent on others, but we are also dependent on ourselves. So we need to create an integrated supply network. But how can we speed up planning in Europe without deregulation? Finally, when we talk about "greening", we mustn't forget transport, which is changing. In transport, competition law takes precedence. We don't have enough ships: Europe needs to build them, but better than before. In the USA, the Join Act requires ships sailing between American ports to have been built in the USA and crewed by Americans. This should be an inspiring example. We also need to support rail transport. We need to create European champions in transport.

In **response to** these exchanges, the General Secretary indicated that all the contributions and exchanges would be collected and "cast" into a document in the same format. She acknowledged that there was a weak point in the document submitted for discussion, when it came to energy policies. We'll come back to the discussion after the vacations. Similarly, when we talk about jobs, what are we talking about? What jobs can we create? We'll be back at the October Executive meeting to take stock. We've got some clear messages to get across. We could also talk about housing or AI... Affiliated organizations will tell the General Secretary their choice by e-mail. Esther concludes that there is no vote, as this was a "discussion document". But the work continues, she concludes.

After this introductory discussion, **three draft resolutions** were submitted to the Executive Committee.

**The first**, entitled "**A policy framework and directive on just transition to anticipate and manage change**", was presented by **Ludovic VOET, Confederal Secretary**. He began by noting that, while the ETUC fully supports the European objective of achieving climate neutrality by 2050, European climate measures are ill-adapted to social change. For the ETUC, in order to fully anticipate and manage change in the world of work, we need to prepare preventively for the consequences of the digital transformation that is underway and is set to intensify, and which could have an equal or even more significant impact on employment than the climate transition. This is why the ETUC is calling for the development of a permanent European investment instrument to ensure that the investments required in the climate, digital and social fields are encouraged and guaranteed in the long term.

The ETUC calls on the EU and national governments to ensure that social conditionalities are an essential requirement for all public funding to provide quality jobs and a skilled workforce as a priority. Planning and funding for adaptation to climate change are woefully inadequate. Finally, previous efforts to involve trade unions in the planning of a just transition have too often been absent or insufficient. This is why the ETUC is asking the European Commission to draw up a Directive for just transition in the world of work, based on job-to-job transition plans for all sectors. Ludovic concludes by saying that, for the moment, the Commission is confining itself to declarations of intent: we need precise, concrete action, especially as job losses are not the consequence of the Green Pact.

In the ensuing **debate**, all speakers stressed that this was a good document and a good basis for further reflection in the various ETUC working groups.

The Resolution was **adopted** by a very large majority, with one vote against and 3 abstentions.

**Deputy General Secretary Claes-Mikael STÄHL** presented the second draft **resolution**, entitled "**Trade and industrial policy**". Indeed, trade is an essential dimension of any industrial policy. The aim of this Resolution is to address the Commission's strategic agenda ahead of the new mandate, and the ongoing reflection on trade policy underway within the Council. For the ETUC, fair conditions of competition must be guaranteed at international level. It therefore calls for a rethink of the multilateral trade rules that were written before governments committed to taking action against climate change. WTO rules must enable other regions of the world to take similar action. Trade unions must be involved in this reflection and in the reform of WTO rules to ensure that international trade law does not take precedence over environmental law. The ETUC also supports the coordinated withdrawal of the EU4 and member states from the recently approved Energy Charter Treaty, because of its incompatibility with our climate objectives. Strict universal standards must be imposed, and EU trade should be used as a lever to improve the lives of workers, particularly in third countries, by ensuring better compliance with international labor standards. But this is the opposite approach to that presented in the Letta report. The ETUC insists on a worker-centered trade policy that contributes to the creation of quality jobs both in the EU and in third countries. Finally, the ETUC reiterates its demand that public services be systematically excluded, directly or indirectly, from the scope of any trade or investment agreement.

In the short **debate** that followed, broad agreement emerged on the substance. However, it was insisted that all revenues from the SEBAM mechanism (Border Carbon Adjustment Mechanism) should be earmarked for the climate. It was also stated that the European Commission should systematically involve the ILO in the evaluation and monitoring of WTO social standards.

The resolution was **adopted** unanimously, minus one abstention.

Finally, **General Secretary Esther Lynch** presented **the third Draft Resolution**, entitled: "**Social conditionalities for social progress**".

The aim of this Resolution is to help members and the ETUC maintain the momentum already achieved on social conditionality. For the ETUC, social conditionality is a fundamental element of an effective industrial policy for quality jobs. It must be guaranteed that taxpayers' money is used to pursue the common good, including supporting business. Social conditionalities, as well as environmental and fiscal conditionalities, should be included in all forms of direct and indirect public funding from the EU and member states, while taking into account sector-specific realities and needs, as well as national specificities. In particular, they should promote quality jobs, including collective bargaining, full respect for workers' and trade union rights, fair wages, job security and social protection, training free of charge during working hours, good working conditions, health and safety in the workplace, work-life balance, and equality and non-discrimination. Social conditions must also be included in reconstruction programs, including in Ukraine. And the ETUC reiterates its call for a review of EU directives on public procurement. In short, social conditionalities must be in place before, during and after tendering.

In the **debate** that followed this presentation, the speakers first congratulated the Secretariat, as this was the first time that social conditionalities had been defined, and the document was generally described as "good". We have to play a role at the political level: we must not waste public money. The message is clear: if you receive public money, you must respect the standards. And, as has been said, social conditionalities must be applied "ex ante" and "post": if they are not respected, sanctions must be applied. Some additions or clarifications are nevertheless requested. Some would like to see . A number of additions to the text have been suggested, such as a point to combat excessive salaries, or asking companies for the "assets" they hold within the Union, or adding "participation" to the Resolution's reference to information and consultation within companies. Jobs must also be safeguarded, and we are calling for a fundamental right to create jobs within the EU with public money. We need to analyze examples of waste together, but also identify examples of good practice.

In her **reply** , Esther thanks the organizations for their encouragement. He says she agrees, particularly with adding "participation" or giving affiliates examples of good practice.

The Resolution was **adopted** almost unanimously, minus 4 abstentions from the Nordic unions.

The floor was then given to **Claes-Mikael STÄHL, Deputy General Secretary**, to present the **draft Resolution** entitled: " **For a ceasefire in Israel and Palestine and for peace in the Middle East**". The Resolution stresses that we must not step out of our role, which is why it is anchored in the texts of the last Congress and focuses on the EU. A major principle also underpins this Resolution: respecting our unity on this difficult subject.

Thus, as the Resolution states, following the failure of the latest truce talks and the ground invasion of Rafah by the Netanyahu government's Israeli army, the ETUC calls on the EU to take a clear stance against the belligerent policies of the extreme right, using all appropriate measures for immediate action to prevent further death and destruction in Rafah and throughout the Gaza Strip. At the same time, the ETUC condemns the terrorist attack perpetrated by Hamas on October 7, 2023, and pays tribute to all the victims on both sides. The ETUC also calls for the unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas following the terrorist attack. All workers, including Palestinian and migrant workers, currently trapped by the conflict must be released and allowed to return home. The ETUC denounces settler violence against Palestinians and welcomes the EU's decision to convene a meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council to assess compliance with the human rights obligations of the Association Agreement. The ETUC also stresses the importance of respecting and implementing the orders of January 26, March 28 and May 24, 2024 of the International Court of Justice (Case 192 - Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to the Gaza Strip - South Africa v. Israel). Israel's response is both disproportionate and outside the bounds of international law. The ETUC encourages governments to consider what they can do unilaterally to prevent war crimes, including introducing sanctions and asking the EU to consider a military embargo. The ETUC strongly calls for peace negotiations, including a Peace Conference, and encourages affiliates to advocate recognition of the State of Palestine in their own countries. It reiterates its deep concern at the grave loss of life and catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, and its disproportionate impact on civilians, especially children. And once peace has been restored, the ETUC demands the reconstruction of Gaza on the basis of an ambitious financial reconstruction plan, which also supports democratic institutions and processes. In other words, without compromising humanitarian aid to vulnerable populations, financial support

should favor reforms towards a viable Palestinian state and measures to consolidate peace and reconciliation. At the same time, control mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that aid actually contributes to the desired objectives, and is not misused. The security and freedom of both states will depend on social justice and peace.

In the **debate** that followed this presentation, the organizations noted first of all that the message from European diplomacy was weak. The Far Right prioritizes human life, so we need to be clear. Many of the intervening organizations consider that the text is as balanced as possible, and that the ETUC's mandate is respected and not exceeded, in view of the texts adopted at the last ETUC Congress. Several others, however, take a more nuanced, not to say more trenchant, approach. For example, some feel that both sides need an equally strong approach, and that the Resolution should therefore be strengthened, and that it should not be limited to October 7, since Israel has been occupying Palestinian land for 76 years. The Resolution makes no mention of sanctions against Israel, and does not do justice to the complexity of the situation. Proportionality is not respected, given the number of victims in Gaza (1,500 Israelis killed against 35,000 Palestinians in Gaza).

Others feel that there is a "double standard": there is no condemnation of Israel attacking and destroying schools, hospitals, humanitarian convoys... There is also a call to do something for Palestinian trade unions in conjunction with Israeli trade unions, and the ETUC should undertake a mission to Israel and Palestine.

In summary, however, the organizations recognize that it has been a long and difficult process to get to this point. This text is certainly not the best, but it does exist, and this Resolution is important for us, including at national level. It should also be pointed out that recognition of a Palestinian state does not mean recognition of Hamas. With this Resolution, we have achieved a certain balance between divergent positions. It makes it possible to affirm certain principles, including that of peace, without saying who is guilty or who is innocent. The ITUC has spoken out on this subject, and we'd be in a weak position if we weren't able to express ourselves. We need this text. We need to promote dialogue and diplomacy: wars always end through diplomacy. And international law is intangible and must be respected.

After this debate, the Chairman proceeds to **the vote**. The resolution was **adopted** by 271 votes in favor, 4 against and 9 abstentions.

**Esther Lynch, General Secretary of the ETUC**, presents the following information document entitled "**Composition of the European Parliament and next steps for a fair deal for workers**".

Her first observation is that the European elections were disappointing overall, with Far-Right parties gaining seats and the balance between democratic and pro-European parties shifting to the Right. It notes, however, that the democratic/pro-European groups (EPP, S&D, Renew Europe, Greens/EFA, Left) still hold some 70% of the European Parliament's 720 seats. The EPP gained a few seats (+8), the S&D Group and the Left kept more or less the same number of seats (-5 and -1 respectively), while Renew lost 23 seats and the Greens/EFA group lost 19 seats. As for the Far-Right groups, ECR gained 4 seats and ID, 9. Together, they represent over 20% of the seats in the European Parliament. These results demonstrate the need to pursue and strengthen the ETUC's actions in the coming weeks, in a new and more difficult context. These results clearly show that there can be no status quo: Europe must urgently address the economic and social insecurity at the root of growing anger and

fear in our society. And all democratic and progressive forces must rally behind a project of hope aimed at creating quality jobs and improving working and living conditions throughout Europe. This is why the ETUC is calling on all MEPs and governments to ensure that the measures outlined in the ETUC Manifesto are incorporated, so that a fair deal for workers is included in the priorities of the European institutions for the next legislature. The General Secretary also announced that the ETUC would be holding an event at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Wednesday July 17 from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm. This will be an opportunity to have a first exchange with MEPs on the next legislature and the need for action at European level to guarantee quality jobs and social progress.

Following this presentation, the Chairman opened the **debate**.

The General Secretary's speech met with almost unanimous approval.

The organizations intervene to clarify what is happening in their countries. Some pointed out that in their country, there had been a huge number of abstentions. Others called on Von Der LEYEN to make commitments. Some also insist that the ETUC should maintain good relations with all the "open" forces, in other words, keep channels open with the EPP. We must also continue to fight against precarious work for young people. There was also unanimous agreement to continue the fight against the Extreme Right. The French trade unions spoke at length about the situation in their country following the surprise dissolution of the French National Assembly by the President of the Republic, which opens wide the doors to the Extreme Right. They affirm that they are extremely mobilized to avoid this catastrophe and that they are doing everything they can to block its path, even if the outcome is highly uncertain at present. They also call for a debate on the Extreme Right at the October Executive Committee meeting.

The floor was again given to **General Secretary Esther LYNCH**, to present the **draft Resolution** on the "**Creation of an Adhoc Constitutional Committee**", to examine the necessary changes to the ETUC Statutes to enable it to improve the functioning of the organization and its structures. Proposals include adapting the preamble to the Statutes with reference to the ETUC Charter of Values, taking abstentions into account when calculating the 2/3 majority rule, or giving FERPA voting rights on the ETUC Executive Committee, including a study. It will make recommendations and proposals for constitutional changes to the Executive Committee with a view to the ETUC Midterm Conference to be held in Belgrade on May 20-21, 2025. The resolution was **adopted** unanimously.

**Claes-Mikael STÄHL**, Deputy General Secretary, introduces the next point of debate with the document entitled: "**Draft ETUC response to the first phase of consultation of the European social partners by the Commission on possible actions in the field of telework and workers' right to disconnect**".

Given the considerable increase in telework in the context of the COVID pandemic, the European social partners jointly identified the need to adapt their 2022 framework agreement on telework to the new circumstances and, in this context, to also address the right to disconnect. However, following the failure of negotiations due to the employers' refusal to present the negotiated agreement, the ETUC considered it consistent for the Commission to take legislative action. To this end, it put three questions to the social partners.

In response to the first question, the ETUC states that, firstly, it believes that the Commission has correctly identified the opportunities and challenges linked to telework and the right to disconnect in its consultation document. It has identified a number of challenges in five areas: employment and working conditions and work-life balance; health and safety at work; worker performance and privacy; equal treatment and non-discrimination and, finally, geographical mobility and cross-border teleworking. The ETUC agrees with these challenges, and has identified an additional challenge in the area of trade union and worker representation rights.

Regarding the second question on the need for EU action to resolve one of the problems identified.

Given that the related problems are so interconnected, the ETUC believes that comprehensive legislation is best suited to protecting workers' rights and their health and safety at work. . The ETUC also believes that it is of the utmost importance to ensure that the right to disconnect applies to all workers, and is not limited to teleworkers.

With regard to the third question, the ETUC welcomes an initiative in the form of a directive laying down minimum requirements for workers engaged in teleworking. And it insists that the term "teleworker" is appropriate. Teleworking is not a new form of employment or a category of worker. Teleworking is a form of work performance, primarily using information and communication technologies (ICT).

In the **debate** that followed, members' reactions focused mainly on wording/modifications to the text.

In his **reply** , Claes-Mikael points out that this is an initial exploratory text and that he will incorporate the requested modifications. The second consultation phase will go into more detail. Finally, he points out that today is the last day of the consultation. It is therefore imperative to define a position.

In the end, the draft response was **adopted** unanimously, subject to a few modifications.

The floor was then given to **Tea JARC, Confederal Secretary**, to present the **draft position** entitled: "**Propositions Stages**".

As the rapporteur points out, the ETUC takes note, with certain reservations, of the European Commission's "Proposal for a Directive on Internships". Indeed, the ETUC supports the aim of the proposed Directive to improve and enforce working conditions for trainees, and to combat traditional employment relationships disguised as internships. It supports the Council Recommendation - while deploring the fact that it is non-binding - on an enhanced quality framework for traineeships. But it also identifies several shortcomings in the proposed directive. Firstly, the scope of the proposal is too restrictive. It does not address the issue of post-graduate traineeships, as proposed by the European Parliament in its Resolution. It also ignores the most abusive forms of unpaid internships. Nor does it specify what internships are and what they should be-this proposal also treats all internships equally and independently of their type, which is a source of confusion. This would be problematic for three important reasons: it could lead to the creation of a third category of worker; it excludes unpaid trainees; and it confuses traineeships within the education system, apprenticeships and post-graduation traineeships. On the other hand, the definition should cover traineeships on the open job market, those under active labor market policies (ALMP) and those compulsory as

part of vocational training. The Directive must guarantee equal treatment, and must also determine the criteria defining the qualities of internships. Finally, traditional employment relationships disguised as internships need to be combated, as do bogus internships, and an observatory should be set up to collect data at both national and international level.

Following this presentation, a brief **debate** ensued.

Although there was general agreement that progress had already been made, one observation emerged: the Directive is not satisfactory overall, and could be greatly improved. We were also asked to be very vigilant about the scope of application. There is therefore broad agreement with the Secretariat's proposals.

In its **response**, Tea stresses the need for a clear definition of "internship", whereas the Directive is vague. We don't want to create new forms of employment. And we want to preserve systems that work well. She reiterates that there can be no costs for the trainee. And she concludes: progress is being made, but we have a long way to go.

Finally, the draft position was **adopted** by a very large majority, minus 8 votes against and 2 abstentions.

**Secretary General Esther Lynch** then presented the **Draft Resolution** entitled "**Ensuring security: a new impetus for peace is needed**".

In her presentation, Esther begins by pointing out that this is a first step. She also points out that, in accordance with its Constitution and the CES Charter of Values, peace is a prerequisite for the full exercise of human rights and stable democracy, and that there can be no peace and security without social justice. Peace has also always been at the heart of the European project. For this reason, the ETUC is gravely concerned by the growing number of wars and violent conflicts in Europe and around the world. It therefore calls for a broader conception of security that does not focus exclusively on military threat scenarios, but also takes into account threats to information, communication, supply, transport and trade networks, the security of raw materials and energy supplies, cyber-security, disinformation, the scapegoating of minorities, and the effects of climate change and global pandemics... The ETUC also believes that resources earmarked for defense and security incentives must not be diverted from social objectives. Strict social conditions must apply to the financing of the defense sector, as to any other sector receiving public funds. In calling on the EU institutions to give priority to peace, it stresses that this requires EU security policy to be integrated into a broader, coherent European foreign policy, which prioritizes the use of the wide range of diplomatic, commercial and conflict-resolution tools. The EU must play a much greater role in peace-building, and strengthen its role in actively supporting the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as exercising strict control over European exports of dual-use goods. Member states must fully involve trade unions and social partners in peace processes.

In the **debate** that followed, the organizations recognized that this was a difficult subject, as the sensitivities of all parties had to be taken into account. Several thanked Esther for this important but delicate text for each member. However, some wanted the ETUC to be more critical, to express its concerns. Indeed, they point out that 1 euro for the military budget means 1 euro less for hospitals and schools. We're spending more and more on the arms race.



We need to talk more about the war industry, and reinforce the idea that the EU must take very strong proactive action.

However, one organization raised a procedural question, arguing that everything points to the need for an in-depth debate within the ETUC on these unaccustomed issues.

In her **reply** , Esther says she is very pleased with all these comments. However, she points out that the suggestions made will not facilitate adoption. She also adds that this is not the only time this subject has been discussed, and that it is important to start the debate immediately. She hopes that the Resolution will be adopted, as she needs a clear mandate to take part in the debates. Indeed, tomorrow she is due to meet with the person who has been charged with drafting a report on this issue. Later, she adds, all this can be discussed again, and an Adhoc Committee set up if necessary. But for now, the important thing is to obtain a mandate.

Finally, the resolution was **adopted** almost unanimously, minus 9 abstentions.

**Isabelle SCHÖMANN, Deputy General Secretary**, then presented the **Draft Resolution** entitled "**Let's go on the offensive to combat sexist and sexual violence in the workplace**".

Preventing and combating gender-based and sexual violence in the workplace are key priorities for the ETUC. However, the recently adopted Directive to combat violence against women and domestic violence does not include any significant provisions to make the world of work safer for women workers. Nor does it recognize the role of trade unions as such in putting an end to sexist and sexual violence. That's why the ETUC is calling for a new European Directive to eradicate sexist and sexual violence in the workplace. It should be included in the work program of the next European Commission and Parliament. The new Directive must include measures to prevent and combat all relevant forms of gender-based and sexual violence in the world of work, both online and offline, and propose practical solutions for safe workplaces from an intersectional perspective, in which the social partners must be involved and trade unions play a key role. We must also continue to campaign for the ratification and full implementation of Convention C 190 - via an EU Directive - and ILO Recommendation 206, as well as the Istanbul Convention. Finally, sexist and sexual violence in the world of work must be tackled through EU social dialogue. The ETUC calls for the appointment of an Equality Commissioner.

In the ensuing **debate** , the organizations consider the Resolution to be clear and concise. They go on to make two observations: the pandemic has led to an upsurge in violence in the home, and the majority of domestic crimes are committed against women, in the form of femicide. Everyone agrees that this is an essential issue, but one that is not sufficiently addressed by the CES. Violence against women is not just a personal issue, as people always want to reduce it to. In the European social model, patriarchy has not yet been abolished. We need to put this issue at the heart of our union activities.

In her **reply**, Isabelle thanked the members for their support, and the resolution was **adopted** unanimously.

**Giulio ROMANI, Confederal Secretary**, proposes the **adoption of the Internal Regulations of the Coordination Committee of Interregional Trade Union Councils**.

This involves accepting the changes made necessary to the 2017 Regulations following the ETUC Congress, in accordance with its statutes. The only change concerns the obligation for IRBs to notify the ETUC Secretariat of changes concerning their representation on the Coordination Committee. The resolution was **adopted** unanimously.

**Ludovic VOET** and **Tea JARC**, **Confederal Secretaries**, present the **discussion document** entitled "**Next steps for the ETUC to work via fair platforms**".

It's a question of thinking about the next steps. This Directive on improving working conditions for platform workers was adopted without the votes of France and Germany, but with the 24 votes required. The ETUC is satisfied with the results of the efforts made. Above all, we need to monitor transposition and establish strong control standards. A group of transposition experts will have to be set up.

In the short **debate** that followed, the organizations congratulated the Secretariat on the battle waged and the victory achieved. The organizations agreed that an informal expert group should be set up, as the ETUC had done for the minimum wage.

In their reply, the two rapporteurs emphasize that there has been potential through the exchange of information and trade union experience. They also point out that it's not just UBER, or drivers, or delivery drivers...many other professions are concerned. The ultimate goal is to achieve an ILO Convention. The document was adopted unanimously and, at the end of the discussion, Ludovic informed the Executive Committee that he would be handing over the responsibility for this dossier to Tea JARC, as he himself had taken over the economic dossier.

Finally, the floor is given to **General Secretary Esther LYNCH** for her **communications**. Without repeating everything, she begins by reviewing the results of the European elections, which saw the EP shift to the Right and an increase in the number of Extreme Right members. These results do not call into question the pre-eminence of the pro-European parties in the EP, even if the task will be made more difficult to advance on the social projects that the ETUC defends and wants to promote. She also spoke of the Hungarian Presidency of the EU, calling for us to stand firm on our issues. She denounced the Hungarian Presidency's proposal for enlargement "on merit". Some countries are facing "excessive deficit" procedures. They must therefore draw up National Action Plans. She notes that the participation of the social partners is "desirable" but not compulsory. The European Council will adopt its strategic agenda on June 27 and 28, 2024. It will set out the EU's direction and objectives for the period 2024-2029. She calls on members to continue to lobby their governments to ensure that the strategic agenda includes the need for action during the next legislature to guarantee quality jobs and to progress towards full implementation of the European Social Rights Socle, including on the basis of the Val Duchesse and La Hulpe declarations. The latter, although less ambitious than the ETUC had hoped, takes up the crucial trade union priorities linked to our action program and the European election Manifesto. The La Hulpe Declaration was signed by the European institutions, all the social partners (with the exception of BusinessEurope) and all the member states (with the exception of Sweden and Austria). Finally, she mentions the event that the ETUC will be organizing at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Wednesday July 17 from 8:00 to 9:30 pm.

This will be an opportunity to have a first exchange with MEPs on the next legislature and the need for action at European level to guarantee quality jobs and social progress.

She concludes by reminding us that the next ETUC Executive Committee will take place in Brussels on October 15 and 16, 2024.

In **other business**, the Swiss trade union drew the Executive Committee's attention to the fact that in its country, legislation on dismissals is so deficient that an employer can dismiss an employee whenever and however he likes.

This concludes the ETUC Executive Committee meeting.

Henri