

**Foreseen ETUC initiatives for a revision of the European Works Council Directive  
(presented and discussed at the Workers' Participation and Company Policy Committee on 28  
November)**

The ETUC will undertake actions and initiatives to strengthen the European legal framework on European Works Councils building upon its *ETUC Action Programme 2019-2023*<sup>1</sup> and the ETUC position paper *For a modern European Works Council (EWC) Directive in the Digital Era*<sup>2</sup>.

The ETUC will work for a revision of the Directive based on the 10 demands defined in the ETUC position paper, while also considering possible additional elements to be included.

Our demands will also include the establishment of a European EWC Ombudsperson (included in the Action Programme).

To achieve this objective, the ETUC, in close cooperation with the European Trade Union Federations, will develop the following actions:

- Develop communication and information actions, as well as public initiatives, involving also EWCs, in order to stress the need for a revision of the Directive (e.g. bottom-up actions, collection of bad practices, declarations, videos);
- Follow closely and influence the initiative report on democracy at work and the legislative initiative report on the revision of the EWC Directive which have been included in the work programme of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee of the European Parliament (also thanks to the ETUC initiative). Considering the engagement by the President of the European Commission to follow-up on legislative reports of the European Parliament, this initiative could be particularly important;
- Organise an initiative in the European Parliament, to highlight the importance of EWCs, the shortcomings of the current legal frameworks and the need for a revision of the Directive;
- Re-start the pressure towards the European Commission on the need for them to propose a revision;
- In coordination with national affiliates, lobby Member States (governments and permanent representations) and EU council presidencies to prepare the ground for a possible Commission proposal;
- Establish a trade union working group on the revision of the Directive, to better define and fine-tune our demands, including legal drafting of the necessary amendments.

All these actions should be included in and complemented by the ambitious project on Democracy at Work put forward by the ETUC – in case it is confirmed by the European Commission (we expect a reply before the end of the year).

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<sup>1</sup> ETUC Action Programme 2019-2023.

<https://www.etuc.org/sites/default/files/page/file/2019-06/20190621%20Action%20Programme.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> ETUC position paper - For a modern European Works Council (EWC) Directive in the Digital Era, Adopted at the ETUC Executive Committee on 15-16 March 2017 in Malta.

<https://www.etuc.org/en/document/etuc-position-paperfor-modern-ewc-directive-digital-era>