

# History(ies) of the European trade union movement: what contributions to social Europe?

Brussels, 22-23 February 2024

With the ETUC celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1973-2023), this is an opportune moment for the ETUI to take a look back at the history of the European trade union movement. Or perhaps 'histories' would be a better word, given its rich diversity. This conference will bring together a consortium of European researchers to analyse different aspects of this story, ranging from the pioneering role of the miners' unions within the European Coal and Steel Community from the 1950s onwards, to the historic contribution of women in European trade unionism, via the role of certain historic national leaders, such as the Italian Bruno Trentin, and the character of trade union dynamics in the countries of eastern Europe.

This hybrid conference, which will take place in Brussels, will offer an exploration of these subjects, some of them unexplored to date. It will also be an opportunity for renowned emeritus professors Richard Hyman and Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick to present their latest book, *Towards a European system of Industrial Relations? The ETUC in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*, which covers the period 2004-2015.

These new historical contributions further enrich the resources that the ETUI is making available to current and future researchers for a more detailed understanding of the European trade union movement's contribution to building a more social Europe.

## Programme

### 22 February 2024

#### 14.30 – 15.00 Welcome

Opening by Claes-Mikael Stahl (ETUC), Bart Vanhercke (ETUI), Claude Roccati (Université Paris I), Sigfrido Ramirez Perez (MMC-ULB, Max Planck Institute, Frankfurt)

#### 15.00 – 18.00 First round table “New views and new subjects about the history of the ETUC”

Chair – Sigfrido Ramirez Pérez (MMC-ULB, Max Planck Institute, Frankfurt)

**Nicolas Verschueren** (ULB): The forgotten dream of the European status for mineworkers.

**Johanna Wolf** (Max Planck Institute, Frankfurt): the founding of the Women Committee of the European Trade Unions.

#### 16.15 – 16.45 Coffee break

**Agustin Menendez** (Universidad Complutense de Madrid): ETUC against the retransformation of labour into an adjustment variable in the context of the fiscal crisis.

**Julien Louis** (Université Lyon 2) : L'évolution des stratégies juridiques de la CES depuis les affaires Viking et Laval

**09.30 – 12.00 Second round table “The challenge of social dialogue”**

*Chair – Bart Vanhercke (ETUI)*

**Sigfrido Ramirez Perez** (MMC-ULB, Max Planck Institute, Frankfurt): The long history of Trade Unions and Social Europe: a historiographical perspective.

**Claude Roccati** (CHS-Mondes contemporains, Université Paris I): History of the Centre européen des relations industrielles (CERI): reasons of a failure.

10.40 – 10.50 **Coffee break**

**Gianluca Cirillo** (Doctoral Student, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II): The system of the European collective bargaining and the difficulties of implementation in Member states.

**Mattia Gambilonghi** (Fondazione Di Vittorio): Welfare State and European integration: the contribution of the CGIL to the elaboration of the ETUC (1986-1997).

12.00 – 13.00 **Lunch break**

**13.00 – 13.15 Presentation of the future website on the history of the European trade union movement (ETUI)**

**13.15 – 14.30 Towards a European system of industrial relations? The ETUC in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

*Chair – Isabelle Schömann (ETUI and ETUC)*

Presentation of the book by Richard Hyman and Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick

Followed by Q&A

14.30 – 15.00 **Coffee break**

**15.00 – 17.00 Third round table ‘The national confederations and the ETUC’**

*Chair – Claude Roccati (Université Paris I)*

**Monika Latos-Milkowka** (Kozminski University): From communism to European integration. The road of Polish trade unions to membership in European Trade Union Confederation.

**Vera Scepanovic** (University of Leiden): ETUC goes East: EU eastern enlargement and the transformation of the European trade union movement.

**Carlotta Favretto** (Ca’Foscari University of Venice): The role of Bruno Trentin in the CGIL's participation in the ETUC. (*online*)

**17.00 – 17.30 Conclusion of the conference and research perspectives, Isabelle Schömann (ETUI and ETUC)**

