

Co-operation with EMCEF and ETUF:TCL
A “strong European industrial trade union pole”: proposed first practical measures

Approved by the Executive Committee of the ETUF:TCL, an initial joint work programme could be hinged on the following ten points:

1/ the development of a common vision

The 3 general secretaries agreed (21 February) to meet at least every three months to take stock of the main issues affecting the sectors.

2/ exchanges of observers

The reciprocal invitations (ETUF:TCL/EMF in the area of European Coordination of Collective Bargaining) could be extended to other areas/committees: industrial and company (EWC) policy.

3/ cooperation in the area of mandates within the ETUC (including, if required, a rotation system)

Within the framework of cross-sectoral social dialogue, the 11 European trade union federations generally obtain 6 to 8 mandates; an agreement between the federations would therefore be advantageous. The same applies to the mandates within the ETUC Steering Committee.

4/ inclusion of EMCEF in the EMF-ETUF:TCL collective bargaining cooperation mechanism: EUCOBA

As previously mentioned, the ETUF:TCL and EFM have already adopted a joint approach to the European coordination of collective bargaining. Furthermore, a new step forward will be taken with the provision of members with access (through the respective websites) with exchanges of information. This cooperation should be extended.

5/ cooperation in the area of action vis-à-vis the European Parliament

Coordinating action related to the EP, not only regarding the monthly sessions in Strasbourg but beyond that, would contribute to strengthening the position of the Federations vis-à-vis this Parliament, the role of which has recently been asserted.

6/ cooperation in the area of the European Economic and Social Committee

The European Economic and Social Committee and the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (heir to CECA/in charge of promoting structured dialogue on industrial change), constitute two other areas where joint strategies should be developed.

7/ development of a joint initiative in the area of restructurings

A joint project (to be submitted by EMF) on the anticipation of industrial change would help to enrich as well as to converge the European trade union policies of the 3 sectors, particularly hard hit by restructurings, on this matter. A degree of “publicity” would be ensured, giving some initial visibility to the cooperation.

8/ cooperation in the area of European Works Councils

The ETUF:TCL has concluded agreements in over 40% of the groups falling within the scope of the directive. Those remaining are generally non-unionised companies, or companies covering several sectors of activities. Systemising and rationalising the approach (exchanges of information/databases) would undoubtedly contribute to making a new step forward in terms of these numbers.

9/ Joint approach to the implementation of the “company statute” directive

The EMF and EMCEF have developed expertise in this area that the ETUF:TCL could benefit from.

10/ finally, drawing up a common position on European industrial policy

This first joint document would send out an important signal, underlining the 3 federations determination to proactively defend and promote a solid, healthy and competitive European industry that generates employment.

These 10 points would constitute a first step forward: the 3 Secretariats have, in fact, agreed to examine other areas of possible cooperation, always with the aim of making a more rational use of the financial and human resources available at European level.