



**EUROPEAN  
FORUM**  
*Bruxelles*

## **MANIFEST**

### **TRADE UNIONISTS FOR A FAIR AND GREEN NEW DEAL**

Trade unions in Europe are facing deep social and political turmoil. There are far-reaching changes in the economy and in the workplace as a result of ongoing digitalisation, platform economies, the ever-increasing job precariousness, worsening ecological problems (particularly on climate change), and increasing global conflicts.

We believe that the only way to effectively address these challenges is to call for a Fair and Green New Deal (FGND) that leaves behind national debates that are fuelling populist and authoritarian movements, parties and governments. This FGND must encompass a new social vision which redirects the Economy towards a green, industrious welfare in Europe.

In time of climate urgency, we must transform our way of producing and consuming according to social and ecological needs. This FGND should aim at radical equality.

We need a pact for employment and sustainability, encompassing a new set of economic, social and environmental policies, overcoming the limits of capitalism and aiming to improve citizens' wellbeing, and reinforcing public services.

Social dumping has to end. Quality jobs must be the standard and kept away from competing pressure on wages, exploitation and ensuring equal treatment, because precarious working conditions cannot be the way to improve economic prosperity. To that end we need a FGND that delivers:

- Laws and regulations to extend the rights and protection to non standard and self-employee workers and to avoid new forms of employment that undermine workers' rights, playing a role towards the elimination of the gender pay gap
- Laws and regulations to limit private monopolies/oligopolies of digital enterprises
- Legally enforceable standards for the activities of multinational enterprises and their supply chains



An important element would be a Social Protocol that is annexed to the EU Treaty which would look to balance the current economic freedoms with regulations on social rights and to put an end to austerity policies.

This would be the perfect tool to regain bargaining power for the trade unions at European level, weakened by neoliberal market reforms. An EU sectoral collective bargaining is necessary in order to provide an upward convergence that brings:

- Fair minimum wages to support decent lives
- The right to strike and the ability to organise actions at EU sector-specific level
- Negotiating power for trade unions to face the new technological challenges and to fight the deregulation of the labour market and to deliver fair conditions for workers, securing quality public services and adequate pensions
- An extension of rights and protection to non-standard, self-employee and platform workers
- A halt to the development of precarious working practices
- A reduction of working time schemes with pay increase
- An increase of workers' representation at company board level and access to statutory and financed occupational training and education, especially for the most vulnerable



For all the above, a stronger political involvement of trade unions at EU level is needed as well as cooperation between leftist, progressive and ecological forces

- In the absence of a progressive majority, the EU needs a clear progressive block, which develops left principles
- Trade Unions must assert themselves as socio-political partners that stand for progressive positions and denounce and confront the rise of far right and fascism in Europe
- Trade Unions must engage in the establishment of a Social Europe for the people
- Such involvement should ensure a constant debate on how we can improve democracy at work and in the institutions for European citizens
- Such enhanced cooperation has to deliver bold responses to the big societal questions, such as climate change, digitalisation, globalisation and also enshrine human and fundamental rights in a common European migration and asylum policy

