



European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
Confédération européenne des syndicats (CES)

**The ETUC asks you –
Go and Vote in the European Elections in June 2009.**

**These elections are important
to you, your family and your community.**

The ETUC's manifesto is set out below.

1. The European Election in June 2009 affects every worker in Europe. Europe has adopted more than 60 pieces of social legislation of benefit to workers, especially in the fields of health and safety, equality, transfer of undertakings and information and consultation. The latest breakthrough has been establishing equal rights for agency workers and stronger European Works Councils.
2. Europe can also be a threat. The recent decisions of the European Court of Justice on free movement of services have affected badly trade union fundamental rights on collective bargaining and strikes.
3. The European Parliament can make all the difference and they helped European trade unions defeat the Bolkestein Services Directive, the Ports Package and a weakening of the Working Time Directive.
4. So workers should use their democratic right to vote and challenge candidates on our key points as follows.
5. Our manifesto is as follows. We demand:
 - Action to strengthen workers' and union rights by adopting a **Social Progress Protocol** and a revised **Posting Directive** to correct the recent ECJ judgements (Laval, Viking, Rüffert, Luxemburg). This is crucial to restore our fundamental rights on free movement of labour and services. Any candidate who refuses this does not deserve any trade union support;
 - A **New Social Deal** in the economic crisis, with full trade union and workers' involvement, aimed at full employment, quality jobs, better pay and pensions,

stronger welfare states and benefits, sustainable development and a strong regulation of financial markets – workers should not pay for bankers' incompetence;

- A stronger European social and a coordinated fiscal policy with a view to establishing a **European social union**;
- A fair deal on **Working Time** protecting workers against long working hours, safeguarding the special role of collective bargaining in the organisation of working time, and ensuring the right for all workers to be able to reconcile work and family life;
- Stronger **protections against the growth of precarious work and for workers in precarious jobs**, providing them with better coverage by labour law and social security, and a transition to quality jobs;
- **A new European industrial strategy** based on innovation, research and development, investment, education and training, and a sustainable environment. We want to ensure rapid and fair transition towards a **low carbon economy**, with a carbon levy on imports from industrialised countries which do not meet EU carbon emission and other environmental standards;
- A new initiative on **gender equality** to combat persistent discrimination, especially the pay gap, and to ensure that women will benefit from actions to counter the economic crisis.
- Stronger protections and equal treatment for **migrant and mobile workers** and strong commitments **against racism, nationalism and xenophobia**;
- Respect for **public services** and better statutory protection, quality investment and jobs.
