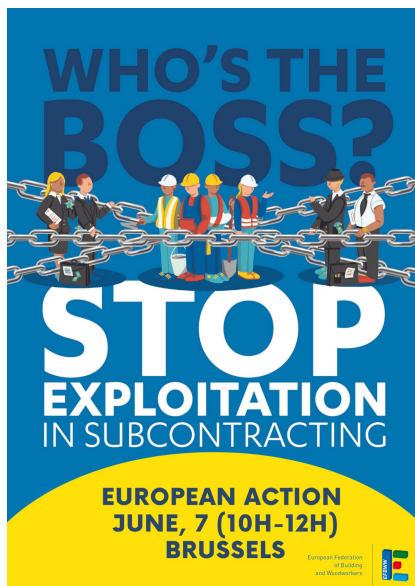


EFBWW NEWSLETTER

News from the EFBWW



Subcontracting campaign – Time for action!

On 13 March, the European Commission (EC) presented the preliminary results of the study which will be the basis for the Commission to assess if further and new (legislative) actions are needed as part of the revised Posting of Workers Directive (2018). From the presentation it was clear that the Commission wants to focus mainly on the need for more information on and enforcement of existing

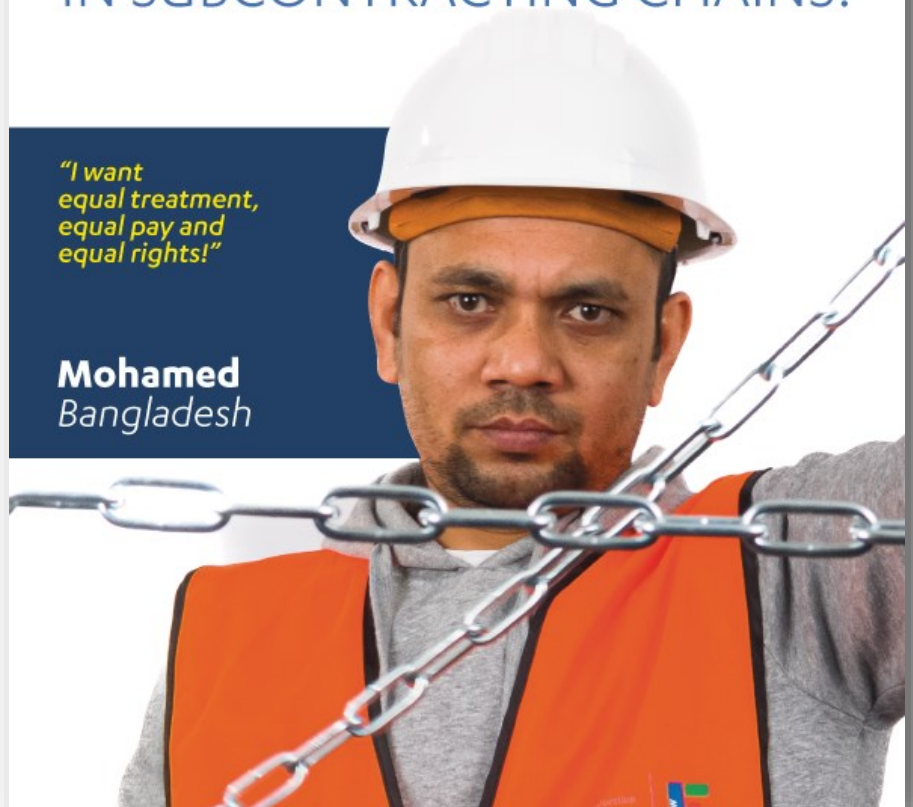
rules. For the EFBWW and its affiliates it is clear: We need new legislation to limit subcontracting, to regulate it better and to increase inspections, and improve enforcement. Therefore, it is time to step up our campaign efforts towards the European Commission and the other European institutions. From 30 May to 7 June we will have our week of action. From 31 May to 2 June, it is all about actions at national level. We count on your creativity and sup-

port, so please inform us of your actions. On 7 June, we will take the campaign to the streets in Brussels and organise a demonstration in front of the European institutions. Let us know if you can join. Furthermore, you can already check our [campaign page on subcontracting](#) where you can find and download all the campaign materials.

WHO'S THE BOSS? STOP EXPLOITATION IN SUBCONTRACTING CHAINS!

*"I want
equal treatment,
equal pay and
equal rights!"*

**Mohamed
Bangladesh**



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EFBWW and FIEC do not agree to any exemptions to mandatory prior notifications in construction

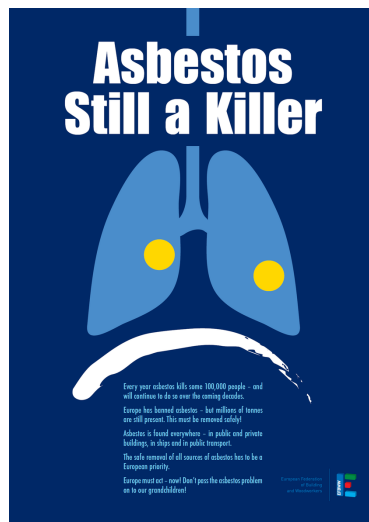
The European social partners sent a letter to the Swedish presidency of the Council of the EU expressing their concern about the upcoming discussions on the long-awaited revision to the coordination of social security regulations. Specifically, about the inclusion of the exemption to prior notification for short posting periods and business trips for the construction sector. EFBWW and FIEC call on the Council of the EU to exclude the construction sector from the exemption for short posting periods and business trips, and to ensure that proper safeguards are put in place to protect workers' rights and prevent abuse in the construction sector. More [info](#)

EP prepares voting on asbestos

The negotiations to adopt the position of the European Parliament (EP) in the asbestos file are now in the final stage. The EP should vote the report on 13 April (date TBC). This report includes most of the previous demands such as the requirement of the ban on encapsulating asbestos, the deletion of the concept of sporadic exposure, the recognition of all asbestos related diseases, the annex for the necessary training of work-

ers. The most challenging part of the report is the proposal on the exposure limit value (OEL). Now, the EP proposes a 10,000 fibre/m³ OEL, valid for a transition period of four years and, after this period the 1,000 fibre/m³ value shall be

valid without further evaluation or negotiation. Once the EP has adopted its position, the European institutions –the EP, the European Commission and the Council – will start Trilogue discussions to finalise the revision of the Asbestos at Work Directive. The EFBWW sent a letter to all the Permanent Representations of the Member States to influence their position on the issue.



Gender equality at the centre of EFBWW Congress

Women are rarely seen on construction sites. The picture is the same in the forestry and wood processing industries. EFBWW, jointly with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) will make a study to assess the representation of women in construction, wood and furniture. Gender equality will be at the centre

of the EFBWW Congress as the study will be presented at one of the side events of the congress - on 12 December in Helsinki, Finland. The report will be a useful tool to design the federation's specific gender equality policies and actions.

EFBWW participates in High Level Construction Forum

On 15th March, the EFBWW participated in the 3rd meeting of the European Commission's High Level Construction Forum: Launch of the Transition Pathway for a resilient, greener and more digital construction ecosystem. The goal is to accelerate the green and digital transition. For the EFBWW, this objective can only be attained if we have direct and quality jobs, if the correct investments in skills and training are made, if workers have good working conditions and the guarantee that no one is going to be left behind.

Save the date: EFBWW presents study on green skills in construction on 24 April

On 24 April, EFBWW will present a study on "Skills and quality jobs in construction in the framework of the EU Green Deal", which was carried out with the financial support of the Just Transition Centre. In an online event, the researchers, Edmundo De Werna Magalhaes (South Bank University/UK) and Andrés Mella (Construction Labour Foundation/Spain) will present the needs for upskilling and reskilling of construction workers, how many new workers need to enter and remain in the sector, how many will be sustained through EU funds, and other opportunities related to the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility. The presentation will be followed by a panel debate with FIEC, the EU Commission and EFBWW.



Strategic workshop with EFBWW affiliates from CEE

On 30 March, trade union representatives from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) met in Prague with the EFBWW and FES in a strategic workshop to discuss their collaboration and engagement with EFBWW, especially with regards to the upcoming EFBWW congress 12-14 December 2023. Participants stressed the need for a stronger voice of CEE countries in the federation. The group took the opportunity to take stock of the European Green Deal and decent work in our industries. Regarding labour shortages, the conclusion is that "we do not only need more workers, but more skilled workers with good wages and good working conditions". In parallel, "a Green deal that protects workers" is needed. The participants also stressed that "forestry is an important industry in the region" Therefore, "a sustainable forest management and decent work for forestry workers" must be among the priorities.

EFBWW participates in ELA conference in Bratislava

On 13 March, EFBWW participated in the launch of the ELA Forum on Posting in Bratislava. Participants discussed several topics, including posting data, third country nationals, coordination of social security systems, and the digitalisation of posting and data collection. Following the launch of the ELA Forum on Posting, EFBWW was present at the first thematic meeting on the posting of workers in the construction sector. This meeting was an opportunity to exchange ideas and best practices on how to ensure fair and transparent conditions for posted workers in the construction industry. EFBWW is committed to promoting fair working conditions for all construction and wood sector workers posted across borders. We believe that initiatives like the ELA Forum on Posting can help to create a more level playing field for all workers, and we look forward to continuing to engage with our partners and stakeholders on these important issues.

EPBD adopted in the European Parliament

On 14 March the European Parliament (EP) adopted its [amendments](#) to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) (see [newsletter from February 2023](#)). The EFBWW is quite satisfied with the results and the vote considering the strong opposition which was established, especially from the EPP group, to weaken the directive substantially. However, the upcoming negotiations in the trilogue with the Council will be challenging because the majority of member states are reluctant to commit to a strong EPBD directive. You can read the statement of the Renovate Europe Campaign of which we are a partner organisation [here](#).

Projects

Results of FELM project presented on 25 April in Vienna

The EFBWW, in collaboration with the employers' organisation FIEC, is excited to announce the upcoming final conference a joint project, which explores the impact of third country national workers and companies in the European construction sector. After months of intensive research, analysis and consultation, the project has produced important insights and recommendations for the future of the industry. We look forward to sharing these findings with our affiliates and partners from both organisations. Mark your calendars for the final conference, which will take place on 25 April 2023, in Vienna. This will be a

unique opportunity for attendees to connect with other stakeholders, engage with experts in the field, and contribute to the ongoing dialogue on shaping the future of construction in Europe. Join us as we bring together voices from across the industry to discuss the conclusions of this ground-breaking project.

STIC seminar in Marseille

As part of the EFBWW project "Strategies For Targeted Information and Consultation" (STIC) a seminar was organised in Marseille, France on 22-23 March. There were 34 participants involved from European Works councils in the Building materials and Cement Sectors. The

EFBWW gave presentations on the "Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism" (CBAM) and the "Emissions Trading System" (ETS). Presentations were given by ADAPT consultancy on the STIC EWC guides for Digitalisation and climate neutrality and 2 interactive workshops took place. Participants were able to learn about how they may be able to use the guides as part of their EWC work and learned from each other on how EWCs operate in their respective companies. The next seminar will take place in Ghent on 4-5 April for EWC members from the building sector.

News from our affiliates



France



France continues to fight pension reform

French trade unions continue their fight against the pension reform, which raises the retirement age to 64. The pension project reform was presented by the French Government on 10 January and since then, French trade unions have been

mobilising to fight it. During the month of March, several strikes and demonstrations took place with the participation of millions and the next round is scheduled for 6 April. The EFBWW expresses its total solidarity with our French affiliates. Stop aux 64 ans!

Belgium



CG FGTB re-elects Van Heetvelde and Geoffrey Goblet

More than 700 delegates gathered for the congress of the Centrale Générale - FGTB to define the priorities for the future. Werner Van Heetvelde and Geoffrey Goblet were re-elected as president and general secretary of the trade union. The values of freedom, equality and democracy are the biggest challenges for the next four years. FGTB will focus on the revision of the Law of '96, which prevents trade unions from freely negotiating wage increases and will centre its actions on the increase of the minimum wage to 17 euros per hour. The trade union also commits to monitor and combat the extreme right in Belgium and Europe. EFBWW vice-president and federal secretary at FGTB, Brahim Hilami, underlines

that the trade union will continue its action at the European and international levels. “We fight against all forms of injustice by mobilisation: through demonstrations, interpellation, and strikes; by calling for and strengthening solidarity with our foreign comrades; by coordinating trade union action in multinational companies; by supporting campaigns in support of trade union freedoms in countries where they are under threat.” More [info](#)

who do not live in Denmark at the time of employment or secondment/posting as a new tool to combat social dumping. Palle Bisgaard, one of the responsible officers for the agreement negotiations: “We are very happy with the result, which both ensures a solid economic starting point for local wage negotiations, but also a solidarity with foreign colleagues taking them away from the minimum wages within construction. With the high inflation and our struggles with social dumping,

the collective agreement delivers on the issues that are most important for our members”. More [info](#)

tions this year. We are particularly proud of the fact that we were able to raise the lowest incomes especially.” More [info](#)

Sweden



Elektrikerna survey concludes that workers want more investment in skills

The Swedish trade union Elektrikerna launched a survey on skills. The goal was to counter the employers’ claim that most electricians refuse skills development and that there is therefore no need for more skills development in the collective agreement. So, Elektrikerna decided to ask its members about the reality, and on 6 March they sent out a short survey via SMS to members. Already after about a day, they had received 756 responses. 95% wanted more skills development and only 4% admitted having turned down skills development. Only 30% of the members who responded had been offered skills development courses by their employer, and these were mainly mandatory courses that the electricians had to attend due to safety reasons or short digital courses. More [info](#)



Denmark



3F reaches new collective agreement

In Denmark, 3F and the employers reached a collective agreement for the construction sector, covering just over 80,000 construction workers. The social partners agreed upon the pay and working conditions that will apply in the industry for the next two years until 1 March 2025. Among other improvements, the minimum wage will increase by DKK 4.5 on 1 May 2023 and by DKK 4.5 on 1 January 2024. Employer/worker contribution to pension will change from 8%/4% to 10%/2%. The wage rates for apprentices will be increased by 4.5% in 2023 and 3.5% in 2024. One of the biggest achievements concerns the payment of a special accommodation allowance of DKK 25 per hour for employees

Austria



Social partners agree on 9.5% wage increase for 100,000 workers

The construction social partners were able to agree on a wage increase of 9.5% for 100,000 workers. They also agreed on a raise of 5% on daily allowances. This means additional income of up to 4,140 euros per year for skilled workers. The top priority in this year's wage negotiations was to obtain a wage increase for the lowest incomes. This was achieved. The minimum wage in the construction sector was raised to 2,532 euros. This is the highest entry-level wage of all sectors. GBH Federal chairman, Josef Muchitsch states: “Thanks to our good cooperation 365 days a year, we were able to conduct fair wage negotiations even under the most difficult condi-

Italy



Filca CISL presents solutions for superbonus

The massive recourse to building bonuses in Italy has made it possible to improve so many homes but has led to a very high expenditure for the state. Filca CISL calls for the tax credits to be paid in order to avoid blocking construction sites that have already begun and to avoid putting families, companies and workers in difficulty (more than 100,000 jobs are at risk). The banks,

for example, could take charge of these sums, and the proposals put forward by the government during the Filca CISL public initiative on 24 March go in this direction. They also call for the introduction of targeted measures for social housing, to enable the poorer classes to have more modern, efficient, safe, sustainable housing. This will also lead to the urban regeneration of cities, especially in the suburbs. [More here.](#)

Fillea CGIL and Feneal UIL organise demonstrations against government decisions on the superbonus and subcontracting

Subcontracting remains an instrument on which FenealUIL and Fillea Cgil are keeping a close watch. Indeed, on 1 April 2023 they organised demonstrations in the suburbs of the biggest Italian cities with the campaign www.failacosabuona.org. This was a mobilisation of construction workers against the government's wrong choices to liberalise subcontracting levels in public contracts and to reduce investment in the renovation wave of buildings, making it difficult for the lowest income earners and the unemployed to upgrade their homes.

Turkey



YOL-iŞ works on the ground after the earthquakes

EFBWW's affiliate in Turkey, YOL-iŞ, is working in all the cities that were devastated by the earthquakes of 6 February. More than ten thousand members of the union across the country participated in search and rescue operations and ensured that the road network was kept open in



severe winter conditions. To date, the union has mobilised more than €320,000 in aid for the earthquake victims. 200 tents, blankets, clothing, food products and mobile sanitary facilities are among the materials provided by YOL-iŞ. YOL-iŞ gives shelter to 144 earthquake-affected families in its training camp in Mersin and 34 families in its guesthouse in Ankara, with all expenses covered by the union. Additionally, the union has donated €75,000 to the relief campaign launched by the TÜRK-iŞ Confederation, to which it is affiliated. The [bank account](#) set up by the Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI) is still open for all organisations who wish to donate. YOL-iŞ is also working with employers to meet the urgent needs of its members. The union recommends the development of the region through public investments and the creation of quality employment. YOL-iŞ argues that social policies should be developed in case of termination of labour relations due to the earthquake. The social partners should establish a coordi-

nation committee. It proposes that the board should make assessments of workplaces and determine the compensation to be paid to the employees of workplaces that have had to stop production and to the heirs of workers who have died. Among the union's demands are a short-time working allowance of 80% of gross wages for those who can work, vocational advisory services for workers leaving the region, and priority for earthquake victims in community benefit programs. The president of the trade union, Ramazan Ağar: "It will take an intense struggle to be ready for future natural disasters. However, the solidarity demonstrated nationwide and internationally since 6 February will make this possible."

Miscellaneous



ETUI launches Benchmarking Working Europe 2023

The European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) published its Benchmarking Working Europe 2023: Europe in transition - Towards sustainable resilience. The report states that Europe is witnessing four major disruptive transition processes: green and technological transitions, economic policy transition, and geopolitical transition. Nevertheless, ETUI argues that there is a transition missing: the social transition. This issue of Benchmarking Working Europe defends that “only a transformative and ambitious social transition can break the current cycle

of crisis after crisis and instead institutionalise what the issue refers to as ‘sustainable resilience’.” More [info](#)

Combatting Far-Right at ETUI

The Education Department of the European Trade Union Institute is organising a session on “Combatting Far-right –how can trade unions better communicate – challenging conversations”. The session will take place in Brussels from 7 to 9 June 2023. Register [here](#) before 1st May, 2023.

EFBWW Meeting schedule 2023

3 April 2023 (full day)	EWC Coordination Group	Brussels, Belgium (EESC)
4-5 April 2023	STIC II project - Seminar Construction sector	Ghent, Belgium
14 April 2023	EFBWW Presidium	Brussels, Belgium
17 April 2023 (a.m)	EFBWW Congress Preparation Committee	Online
20 April 2023 (full day)	Standing Committee Wood/Furniture	Brussels, Belgium (EESC)
24 April 2023 (a.m.)	Gren Deal and Construction - EFBWW/Just Transition centre	Online
25 April 2023 (full day)	FELM final seminar	Vienna, Austria
28 April 2023	International Workers' Memorial Day	
16 May 2023 (full day)	Standing Committee Building	Brussels, Belgium (EESC)
17 May 2023 (full day)	EFBWW - FES workshop Future of work (SCB + SCW/F)	Brussels, Belgium
22 May 2023 (full day)	Social Dialogue Wood - Plenary	Brussels, Belgium - Hybrid
23 May 2023 (full day)	Social Dialogue Furniture - Plenary	Brussels, Belgium - Hybrid
23-26 May 2023	ETUC Congress	Berlin, Germany
30 May - 7 June 2023	EFBWW Week of action for the Subcontracting campaign	Brussels, Belgium
31 May - 1 June 2023	BWI World Board	Geneva, Switzerland
5 June 2023 (full day)	Social Dialogue Construction - WG Employment	Brussels, Belgium
6 June 2023 (full day)	Executive Committee	Brussels, Belgium (EESC)
6 June 2023 (evening)	Open day EFBWW secretariat + reception	Brussels, Belgium
7 June 2023 (10-12 a.m.)	STOP SUBCONTRACTING demonstration	Brussels, Belgium
14-15 June 2023	STIC II project - Seminar Wood/Furniture/Forestry	Berlin, Germany
2 October 2023 (full day)	Social Dialogue Wood/Furniture - Joint woodworking and furniture session	Brussels, Belgium
3 October 2023 (full day)	OSH Coordination group/Open expert meeting	Brussels, Belgium (EESC)
11 October 2023 (full day)	Social Dialogue Construction - WG VET/YOUTH	Online
17-18 October 2023	EFBWW - ETUI seminar Woodworking & Furniture	Brussels, Belgium
9 November 2023 (full day)	Executive Committee	Brussels, Belgium (EESC)
12-14 December 2023	EFBWW General assembly	Helsinki, Finland