

16/12/2008 - 13:30

STRASBOURG



25 hours a day?



*Priority to
Workers' Rights, **not**
Longer Working Hours*



EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC)

www.etuc.org

EUROMANIF

Priority to
Workers' Rights,
not Longer
Working Hours

On 17 December, the European Parliament will vote in plenary on the revision of the Working Time Directive which, if the EU Council of Ministers gets its way, will weaken the Directive by allowing a proliferation of opt-outs and on-call work.

This, together with four recent decisions of the European Court of Justice, restricts workers' rights and represents a blow to Social Europe.

Especially at a time of looming recession and rising unemployment, workers need **more** rights to information and consultation, **better** controls on working time, **guarantees** of decent levels of pay and benefits, and **respect** that their fundamental rights to collective bargaining and strikes are not undermined by the European Court of Justice and the single market.

So, trade unionists of Europe join the
EURO-MANIF
16 DECEMBER 2008



EuroMANIF

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STRASBOURG

WORKING TIME: OUR DEMANDS

On 17 December, the European Parliament will vote in plenary on the revision of the Working Time Directive.

On the eve of this vote, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) will demonstrate in Strasbourg to demand:

- working hours that **respect health and safety**
- **decently paid** working hours
- **better balance** between work and family life

THE WORKING TIME DIRECTIVE CAN ONLY BE REVISED IF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED

In June 2008, the Council of Ministers of the European Union adopted proposals for revision of the Working Time Directive that are unacceptable.

These proposals do not respect the rights and interests of workers and their families. They also infringe the principles of the European treaties and of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, as well as decisions of the European Court of Justice.

ETUC is therefore asking the European Parliament to play its democratic and independent role and to adopt key amendments at second reading to safeguard the directive's principles.

The European Parliament must adopt amendments that ensure:

- protection against long working hours that are a threat to the **health and safety of all workers, whatever their level of responsibility**
- the end of all abuse in the form of excessively long working hours (opt-out)
- recognition of **on-call time** (attendance time) at the workplace as **working time**
- the role of **collective bargaining, and information and consultation** of workers in the organisation of working time
- **workers' rights to adapt their working hours** in terms of their needs

The European Parliament must stand up to the Commission and the Council and confirm the position it adopted at first reading.

If the Parliament does not secure an absolute majority for its position, the Council's proposals will have force of law. This has to be avoided at all costs!

ON 17 DECEMBER, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WILL HAVE A CRUCIAL ROLE TO PLAY TO PREVENT SUCH WEAKENING OF WORKING TIME LEGISLATION