



REPORT WEBINAR ON #TIMEFOR8 – EU TUDCN

15 June 2020

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has had global consequences on the income and livelihoods of workers around the world. Workers are facing increasing occupational safety and health risks; jobs are being suppressed worldwide and precariousness is growing. Informal economy workers have been especially affected as lockdown measures are challenging their livelihoods and they remain largely uncovered by social protection systems and lack access to health care. SDG8 on decent work and sustainable economic growth is therefore more relevant than ever.

In light of the pandemic and the need to put SDG 8 at the heart of responses to the crisis, the ITUC has been adapting its [Time for 8 Campaign](#) over the last month to put forward new messages that will respond to workers' priorities in this context.

Objectives

- to present the new *Time for 8* Campaign and its [call to action](#)
- to discuss the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the trade union advocacy work and the trade union key policy responses to the SDGs decade of action.

Participants

The webinar counted with the participation of 26 representatives of EU affiliates, plus 3 representatives of the ETUC staff and 6 representatives of the ITUC/TUDCN staff.

Contents of the discussion

Firstly Liina Carr, Confederal Secretary of the ETUC, presented the overall view from ETUC on COVID-19 socioeconomic impact and EU Communication on the Global EU response to COVID-19. Moreover, Marco Cilento, Head of institutional Policy of the ETUC, facilitated an exchange among participants which provided an overview of the current initiatives on SDGs promoted by affiliates at the country level aimed at spreading information and raising awareness of SDGs and the UN2030 Agenda in the trade union movement in Europe, from the workplace up to the TU leaders, especially in Spain, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium.

The second part of the webinar focused on the main advocacy tools developed by the ITUC-TUDCN to promote the centrality of SDG8 within the overall agenda2030 and as a response to the impact of COVID-19 and to need for accelerated action towards the SDGs. In particular, Giulia Massobrio presented the SDG 8 Monitor and the key trade union policy responses for the SDGs decade of action, while Alain Rodriguez presented the new ITUC Campaign #timefor8. The presentations were followed by questions and comments from participants, which highlighted the usefulness of both tools for awareness raising and



advocacy purposes at the national, regional and global level, as well as the interest in linking them to current national initiatives promoted by affiliates to ensure coherence and enhance their impact.

In their concluding remarks, both Paola Simonetti (ITUC) and Liina Carr (ETUC) stressed the importance of the joint work of the ITUC and ETUC on SDGs and the need to keep working to make trade unions asks on the SDGs visible in all relevant decision making spaces related to sustainable development.