

Confederations welcome progress in cross-sector negotiations

[Belgium](#)

The three main trade union confederations are pleased that, following the national day of action on 29 March 2019, the government agreed to separate negotiations on welfare from those on pay. This was a key demand of the trade unions who agreed to approve the funds allocated to a range of payments from unemployment benefit to pensions. The budget of more than 700 million euros intended to maintain the lowest benefit rates should have been implemented last September, but the employers wanted to link it to an agreement on wages. The unions are disappointed that it took so long to arrive at an agreement but welcome the increases that will benefit many citizens on top of the standard indexation.

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