

Employers block childcare negotiations

Netherlands

The [FNV](#) trade union reports that the employers have stalled the negotiations in the childcare sector after three rounds of bargaining. The union says that while the employers acknowledge the major problems of overwork and understaffing they are not willing to take the urgent action required to tackle them. The FNV wants a one-year agreement covering 2023 that will deliver a pay rise compensating for inflation plus €100 a month, a minimum hourly wage of €14.00 and an increase in the end-of-year bonus from 3% to 5% of salary. It has also proposed improvements in work-life balance in relation to retirement and annual leave. Vacancies in the sector are currently around 6000 but without any measures to increase recruitment this is estimated to increase to 32000 by 2025 when most childcare will be free.

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