

EPSU Executive Committee - Congress, sectoral work and much more on agenda



(13 November 2018) With [Congress](#) around the corner, it was the main item on the agenda. Members discussed the draft Programme of Action and the amendments proposed by affiliates. With some small changes the Executive Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Congress Resolutions Committee (CRC). These will now be addressed to the unions and delegations for approval at Congress. There was also discussion on the amendments proposed by affiliates to the statutes and the recommendation of Constitutional Working Group to the Executive Committee were endorsed. These will be proposed to Congress. We received several resolutions from affiliates which will now be forwarded to all unions for amendment. The CRC will consider the amendments in February and its recommendations considered by the Executive in March 2019. The draft programme for the Congress was approved.

Isolde Kunkel-Weber, our current president will retire at Congress and Mette Nord, the President of the Norwegian union Fagforbundet and currently vice-President of

EPSU was endorsed as a candidate to replace her. The Committee also supported the candidacy of the EPSU General Secretary to be re-elected while the current Member auditors ([Martine Ugolini and Catherine Blanc](#)) have also been proposed by their unions for re-election. The votes will take place at Congress. Representatives of the youth network urged affiliates to include youth representatives in their delegations and strongly supported the recommendation to allow delegations to include an additional observer if he or she represents young workers. The Executive Committee endorsed the proposal stating also that delegations need to respect gender parity. There will be a youth conference before the Congress and all delegates who are members of the Youth Network are invited.

Much of EPSU's work is carried out in the sectoral committees, social dialogues and networks. This Executive was provided with a good overview of the results we have achieved together. Our general newsletter and website report in detail on this work and affiliates can find the reports [here](#).

The Executive discussed proposals for action on for International Women's Day on 8 March 2019 under the slogan: "Strengthening public services – a double win for gender equality". We are ready to #PressforProgress. It heard a report from of the Women and Gender Equality Committee and its input into the UN Committee on the Status of Women next year. PSI is leading on this issue to make sure the Committee recognises the crucial role of public investment in public services for increased gender equality and the link between quality of employment and quality of services. Recent austerity measures have had a detrimental impact on gender equality through worsening quality of public services and public service employment. It is necessary to tackle low pay and working conditions in public service sectors dominated by women and their implications for the gender pay and pension gap. We want to stress the role collective bargaining and social dialogue can play in all of this.

The Executive Committee adopted several statements:

- [In solidarity with Austrian workers and public service unions](#) as the government is attacking working time, for example.
- [Demanding progress by the Austrian Presidency](#) over a number of social policy files.
- [To express our concerns over the developments in Brazil](#) after the election of a new extreme-rightwing president

- On [the network of workers involved in services](#) welcoming migrants and refugees in Europe

We joined in [the action of tax justice networks](#) to recall that it is one year since the Paradise Papers revelations. Government action to deal with tax avoidance has been limited and in the EU, Member States are blocking agreement to introduce public country-by-country reporting.

Other issues discussed at the Executive Committee included:

- European Parliament: in the lead up to next year's elections we will focus on the importance of a progressive Parliament to advance workers' rights, deal with corruption and tax avoidance and improve cooperation to deal with climate change and achieve just transitions. The Parliament should reflect the values of solidarity, democracy and European cooperation.
- PSI: priorities and issues on the constitution on the agenda of the PSI Executive Board.
- ETUC: preparations for Congress, including the EPSU delegation, the draft Programme of Action and the future of the ETUC.
- EU social policy: initiatives such as the proposed Directive on Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions, and the European Labour Authority.
- Economic policy developments: the European Semester, the country-specific recommendations and how national level actions by unions can have a major impact to ensure our agenda is recognised.

Close to 90 people from more than 30 countries participated in the Executive Committee which took place in Brussels on 6-7 November 2018 and was chaired by our President.

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