

Minimum wage for all and more in waste

 [Germany](#)

Services union ver.di has welcomed the Federal parliament's vote to implement a national minimum wage which will be introduced at €8.50 an hour from 1 January 2015. The union sees this as an important step in ending poverty wages. However, it is very concerned about the exceptions allowed and estimates that over two million workers may be prevented from getting the full rate. These include the long-term unemployed for the first six months after getting a job and newspaper delivery workers to whom a lower rate applies. In the meantime the sector minimum wage that already exists in the waste sector covering around 175000 workers increased from €8.68 to €8.86 on 1 July. The rate is negotiated between ver.di and the VKA public and BDE private employer organisations and is given general applicability by the Federal labour ministry.

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[2014 July epsucob@NEWS 13](#)

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