

## **ETUC welcomes EU action against Belarus**

 [Belarus](#)

The ETUC has welcomed a decision by the European Council to withdraw trade privileges from Belarus in response to the government's failure to respect trade union rights. In 2004 a commission of inquiry of the International Labour Organisation called on the Belarus government to stop its harassment of trade unions and respect the right to association and assembly but the government has failed to respond. ETUC General Secretary John Monks said that in contrast to its failure to act in the past, “In this case [the European council\] has shown it is willing to take concrete action in support of workers denied their basic rights. We hope the Belarus government will now act to protect fundamental trade union freedoms.”](#)

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