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The SIPTU general workers' union has welcomed new government initiatives on funding and regulation of the childcare sector which it believes will help improve children's safety and the quality of care. However, the union argues that urgent action is needed to tackle low pay and precarious employment in the sector. SIPTU says with average pay at only EUR 10.88 an hour, there are significant recruitment and retention problems as reflected in a staff turnover rate of just over 28%. The union wants to see a major overhaul of funding for the sector to provide the basis of decent pay for such undervalued workers.

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