

Speakers Bio 24/11

Opening

Italy - CGIL - **Lara Ghiglione**

Born in La Spezia in 1975. After studying philosophy and pedagogy, in 2019 she graduated with honours in Science of Administration and obtained a master's degree in criminology with a thesis on corruption and mafia infiltration in the economy; she is the author of several publications on these topics. As a primary school teacher, she began her trade union experience in 2003 as a delegate of the Flc CGIL, and in 2008 she was elected general secretary of the La Spezia Federation. In 2013 she joined the secretariat of her city's Chamber of Labour, holding the position of organisational policies from 2015. In December 2017 she is elected general secretary and is reconfirmed in 2018. In February 2021 she is elected to the confederal secretariat of CGIL Liguria. In December of the same year, she is called to the national CGIL and is given the position of Coordinator of the General Secretariat, to which she is added in September 2022 as Head of Gender Policies. She was elected to the national CGIL secretariat on 19 May 2023.

FES - **Johanna Lehmann**

Johanna Lehmann is a policy officer at the EU Office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in Brussels. Her work within the FES European Trade Union Dialogue encompasses topics such as capacity building for trade union youth, collaboration with trade unions to combat right-wing populism, and addressing gender-related challenges in the trade union movement. In addition, she is also covering the broader field of social affairs. She previously worked at the FES Competence Centre on the Future of Work on the topics of digitalisation and its impact on workers and the labour market.

European Parliament - **Maria Eugenia Rodriguez Palop**

María Eugenia Rodríguez Palop is a Spanish lawyer and politician, professor of Philosophy of Law at the Carlos III University of Madrid, specialising in human rights. She is an MEP for Unidas Podemos and also Vice-Chair of the FEMM Committee.

Panel 1

Italy - FP-CGIL - **Lara Verbigrazia**

Since 1991 in Cgil Funzione Pubblica, initially employed in technical roles, she was administrative manager of the national structure until 2014. She then took on positions of political responsibility following the policies of legality and supplementary welfare, and since

2016 she has held the position of head of gender policies for the Federation. In June 2021, she was elected Vice-President of the Women's and Gender Equality Committee of European Public Service Unions (EPSU). She fights passionately for the inclusion of women in the world of work, for equal rights starting with pay, for a society worthy of the name, which cannot be evolved and integrated without women.

ADAPT - Margherita Roiatti

Dr. Margherita Roiatti: Senior Research Fellow (Fondazione ADAPT). She holds a PhD in Human Capital Formation and Labour Market Relations (University of Bergamo). Her areas of specialization cover: skills governance, occupational transitions, gender equality and gender pay gap issues (both with reference to the public and the private sectors). She is experienced in labour market analysis and in social research. She has been involved in several national and international research projects. Margherita coordinates ADAPT's International Relations area and the Editorial Board of ADAPT International Bulletin. She has carried out several lectures and teaching activities for national trade unionists and employers' organisations members.

Fondazione ADAPT is a not-for-profit organisation, founded in 2013 by ADAPT – Association for International and Comparative Studies on Labour Law and Industrial Relations. As for its articles of association, the Foundation's primary purpose is to support young people's direct access to the labour market. This is done directly – e.g., through the establishment of an International School of Higher Education in Occupational Transitions, Labour and Industrial Relations – and indirectly, i.e. by working on research activities and projects.

Germany – Ver.di – Alexa Wolfstädter

Responsible for women's and equality policy in Ver.di for over 25 years with a focus on collective bargaining / equal pay and equality in public services.

For more than 15 years Member of the Gender Equality Committee of EPSU and the Board, Vice-President of the Committee for 10 years.

Italy – CGIL- Mafalda Ferletti

Since 1996 trade union leader of the CGIL with various positions in the Civil Service and Confederal, member for one term of the Ronal Equal Opportunities Commission - Friuli Venezia Giulia. Since 2019 in charge of trade union training FP CGIL, currently (also) General Secretary FP CGIL Trieste. Alternating and complementing the roles of trade union management with that of trainer, she has often approached the issues of equal opportunities, women's empowerment, leadership styles also in training mode. The limitations of physical contact in the covid period paradoxically expanded the possibilities of meeting and exchanging knowledge, good practices, skills. An example of this is the training on "gender bargaining".

Tajikistan – TUWSPBI - Nargis Nazarzoda

Position: Chairman of the Trade Union of Employees of State, Public and Banking Institutions of the Republic of Tajikistan

Topic: On the practice of the Trade Union

employees of the state, public and banking
institutions of the Republic of Tajikistan with women members of the trade union.

Panel 2

ETUI - **Kalina Arabadjieva**

Kalina Arabadjieva is Senior Researcher in the Economic, Employment and Social Policies Unit of the European Trade Union Institute, with a PhD in labour law and collective labour rights. She works on gender equality in the workplace, including relevant EU legal frameworks on equal pay and work-life balance, as well as on EU just transition policies and the relationship between labour law and environmental law. She worked with the ETUC on the new EU Pay Transparency Directive, which will be the topic of her presentation at the conference.

Iceland - BSRB - **Freyja Steingrimsdóttir**

Freyja, the communications director for BSRB, the Icelandic Federation for Public Workers, is a seasoned political scientist and campaign strategist, has led impactful initiatives for political parties, trade unions, and NGOs. Notably, she is one of the women who orchestrated a successful full-day women's strike in Iceland on 24. October, advocating for gender equality under the slogan, "You call this equality?" Essential Focus: Understanding the Women's Strike in Iceland on October 24th – an overview: brief history, rationale, mobilization techniques, successful execution and next steps.

France - FSS-CFDT - **Nathalie PAIN**

Panel 3

ETUC - **Isabelle Schömann**

Social Platform - **Laura de Bonfils**

Laura de Bonfils is the Secretary General of Social Platform the biggest network of civil society organisation in the EU working to advance social justice. She has previously worked at SOLIDAR, coordinating the work on social Europe, and at Volonteuropé, focusing on active citizenship and equality. She also worked at the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) in the team that developed the first Gender Equality Index, as well as in several communications positions. She holds an MSc in Gender, Media and Culture from the London School of Economics and Political Science and an MA in Publishing and Journalism from LUMSA University in Rome.

United Kingdom - UNISON - **Gloria Mills**

Gloria Mills has been elected President of the ETUC Women's Committee that took place on 22 and 23 of October in Brussels. Gloria is also the acting chair of the EPSU's Women and Gender Equality and is the UNISON spokesperson on equality. Gloria Mills was elected President of the TUC in September 2005 and served as President and Vice-President in 2005-2007. Gloria's involvement with trade unions began as a steward in 1978. It was not long before she was appointed UNISON's director of equal opportunities. Since that time, she has been responsible for a range of campaigns on equal pay, childcare, women, employment, race and human rights issues. Gloria was also the first Black woman elected to the TUC's General council and is chair of its race committee and a member of the women's committee. She is a CRE Commissioner and sits on the editorial advisory board of Equal Opportunities Review. Gloria was awarded the CBE in 1995 for services to trade unions and then the MBE in 1999. She has been a member of the ETUC Women's Committee since 2007 and a member of the Presidium since 2011.

Italy - FP-CGIL - **Serena Sorrentino**

Born in 1978, Neapolitan, studied the humanities and was politically formed at a very young age, dealing with the conditions of youth discomfort in the suburbs, against which she undertook struggles and disputes, starting with claims related to the right to study and social spaces. In 1994, she was one of the founders of the middle students' union and in 2002 he moved from the university union to the CGIL, before joining the secretariat of the Naples Chamber of Labour at only 23 years of age. In January 2010, she joined the national CGIL to deal with equal opportunities policies as national manager and in June of the same year she was elected to the national secretariat. This role was reappointed in June 2014. The defence of labour, together with its complex set of rights, is the focus of her commitment: opposition to the Jobs Act, the CGIL's 'challenge for rights', the charter of universal labour rights. In June 2016, she was elected general secretary of the Civil Service, a role she was reconfirmed with a majority of votes of over 94% in February 2022. As general secretary of the FPCGIL she tackled the delicate phase of the pandemic by pursuing a decisive policy to counter the weakening of public services, bringing the category's issues to the top of the national political agenda.