

EPSU TRADE UNION JOURNALISTS SEMINAR 24-25 November

Outline of 4th EPSU journalists seminar 24-25 November 2008

Section A – EPSU 2009 Congress briefing

An extensive briefing will be given on the aims of the EPSU congress in 2009, and in particular the outline and timetable for pre-congress publicity, the structure of the congress, the contents of the resolutions being tabled for congress, and guest speakers.

Pending the agreement of the EPSU trade union journalists, we will attempt to coordinate a build up to the [congress](#) in the trade union national publications. There is an obvious advantage in linking the EPSU issues to the run up to the European elections in June 2009 (which will take place the weekend before congress starts).

EPSU will link the congress resolutions to the publication ‘the tide is turning’. The aim is to generate awareness that throughout Europe there is a trend towards the public service and away from loosely regulated private sector involvement.

Section B – EPSU website and trade union journalist participation

The redesigned www.epsu.org will be explained.

The 8 logos visible on the home page will be explained. The aim to extend these logos across every aspect of our communication work will be outlined. The recently produced EPSU ‘who are we?’ brochure will be explained.

The redesigned website gives a strong profile to the **national representatives** who are mandated to the various EPSU bodies. For an example of this please go to the [United Kingdom EPSU page](#). The aim is to raise the profile of those who actively participate in EPSU’s work. It also serves to improve transparency. Ordinary public service union members will be able to see who carries their mandate in European work.

Pending the agreement of the EPSU trade union journalists, the option of a similar page for the journalists themselves, will be explored, including the option of individual blogs. This would allow commentary and news to be directly posted on the website. Perhaps just as importantly, this would increase the level of content on www.epsu.org, in languages other than English.

Section C – Update of EPSU campaigns

Briefings and interview with European politicians will be given on the following key topics:

The Directive for cross border healthcare in the EU

The Directive on working time

EPSU and the Lisbon Treaty (future of public services)

Section D – EPSU Public Service Pledge for the European Parliament Elections 2009

EPSU hopes to play a constructive role in the European elections by bring public service issues to the fore and by mobilising our membership for the election.

We hope to show that European elections have real consequences on core issues, such as health, local government, energy, water and in public administration.

EPSU intends to contribute to the European elections through the following stages:

1. This summer (2008) EPSU submitted policy demands for the next European Parliament mandate 2009-2014. The [submission](#) was sent to the EPP, the Green-EFA group, and the GUE-NGL group. EPSU also participated in the Party of European Socialists (PES) [consultation process](#) of drafting a manifesto for the European elections of June 2009. We have received a positive response from the PSE and have conducted follow up meetings to expand on the shared policy points. EPSU hopes to play a constructive role in the European elections by bring public service issues to the fore and by mobilising our membership for the election.

We hope to show that European elections have real consequences on core issues, such as health, local government, energy, water and in public administration.

2. EPSU journalists will be invited to attend the EPSU Executive Committee on the morning of the 25 November (the Executive Committee will take place in the same building as the seminar). EPSU leaders will stage a press conference to outline the EPSU European election strategy. Leaders of the major European parties will also be invited to attend. The European politicians in attendance will be invited to sign a “**public service pledge**”, for the European Parliament 2009-2014.

Journalists will be invited to put questions to the EPSU leaders and the European politicians.

3. Pending the agreement of the EPSU trade union journalists, we hope that the “public service pledge” can then be turned into a regular activity in each EU member state. The proposal is that EPSU affiliate unions stage photo-opportunities and press briefings, where prospective European Parliament candidates ‘sign-up’ to the pledge. EPSU secretariat will record each of these events, noting and further publicising the pledge of the candidate.

4. EPSU will publish a book in May 2008. This will be called “the tide is turning – the human face of public services in Europe”. It will include at least one example from each EU member state of a ‘general service’ returning to public regulation or control. The publication will focus on the ‘public service heroes’ who were the instigators of the service returning to public hands, and will include testimony from users.

Section E – EPSU book launch on the effects of Public Private Partnerships

EPSU will host the launch of a major study on PPPs, highlighting extensive examples of the negative effects of the PPP model.

This will also take place on the 25 November during the morning session of the EPSU Executive Committee. EPSU trade union journalists will be given the opportunity to interview David Hall ([Director of the Public Services International Research Unit](#) (PSIRU)).
