

DRAFT DECLARATION
ETUC Youth Committee

*ETUC – Youth declaration on the first 50 days of President Juncker
For adoption on 18 December 2014*

The risk of a lost generation and of a third European recession are a dire reality confirmed by the most recent macroeconomic available data including deflation in some Member States, growing poverty, increasing inequalities and recession. Even in those countries in crisis showing some hints of improvements, the longed job-rich recovery is failing to materialise.

The newly elected European Parliament and Commission, which is in its first 50 days, must prioritize all action aimed at alleviating the devastating impact that austerity measures are having on European citizens and in particular on youth.

Wrong policies are still adopted at national level in the fields of economy, labour markets and social cohesion, in some cases even excluding social partners. The European Social model must be strengthened not dismantled.

Social dialogue, in particular, should be strengthened - while respecting its autonomy - and must lead to concrete results also in the interest of younger generations.

Europe urgently needs a New Path: the lack of a clear, concrete and urgent commitment in investments and growth is another negative element. The € 300 bn investment plan announced by President Juncker were a first very welcome change in this direction, yet it has resulted to be old wine in new bottles. The European Commission has finally promised an injection of € 21 bn with the hope that a multiplying effect in the private sector will raise this amount up to € 315 bn.

According to the latest Eurobarometer survey, 72% of young people (aged 18-24) abstained from May's European Parliament elections and 56% of them included unemployment as a key motivation for voting. Despite this, young people still demonstrate the most positive attitudes towards the EU: 71% perceive themselves as EU citizens.

ETUC urges the European Council – meeting in Brussels in December 18 and 19 – to take further action to secure transitions in the labour market (including a more efficient implementation of the youth guarantee), to make sure that quality jobs are the norm and not the exception, to make social protection systems sustainable and all-inclusive, to prevent any form of social dumping and increase the full participation in the labour market in particular of young women and vulnerable groups (migrants, youngsters with disabilities, lgtb...)

ETUC Youth is concerned about the ongoing negotiation of trade agreements (TTIP, CECA etc.) as they are of particular relevance for younger generations because of their long-lasting impact. Trade agreements should be negotiated in the public interest, not for the advantage of a very few. In any case this agreement should mean the privatisation of the gains of trade while socialising the losses.