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WHAT'S NEW?

What has the ETF been up to?

The European Commission will publish the long-awaited EU Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy this Wednesday, 9/12. Leading up to this, the ETF has shared its position online along with visuals on social media to emphasise our demands which we encourage our affiliates to share. The strategy must reconcile environmental and social sustainability - our initial reaction to its release is already being prepared. [Read more](#)

Frank Moreels, ETF President and Livia Spera, ETF General Secretary welcomed Joe Biden's

presidential win in the USA, highlighting that this will certainly bring stronger ties between transport unions in Europe and the US. [Read more](#)

The ETF met with Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, to discuss key issues affecting transport workers. Livia Spera, extended an invitation to build, together with Commissioner Schmit, a new vision for the future of transport work. [Read more](#)

The ETF also met with Andrea Nahles, Commissioner Schmit's Special Advisor on Social Dialogue, underlining that the European sectoral social dialogue is not being used to its full potential. The ETF gave her clear examples of how lack of commitment from the employer and the European Commission can be an obstacle to a meaningful dialogue.

ETF and FSC-CCOO met with S&D MEP Isabel García, who committed to defending the inclusion of a strong social dimension in the upcoming Sustainable Smart Mobility Strategy, and agreed that the digital transition would not work without worker involvement. [Read more](#)

In an open letter to the EU and EFTA Ministers of Transport, the ETF strongly reacted against the omission of transport workers in the adopted Passau Declaration which promotes the benefits of automation and digitalisation, but forgets that just transition is only possible through the involvement of workers. [Read more](#)

The second round of ETF Talks is out; this time focussing on the gig economy and whether it's compatible with fair work. To answer this question, we brought together MEP Johan Danielsson, ETF Vice President, Jan Villadsen; ETUI's Director of Research Department, Nicola Countouris and ETF's General Secretary Livia Spera as moderator. [Watch here](#) and [read an in-depth summary here](#).

ETF's affiliates came together for an online webinar in the scope of our Executive Committee, united from afar, to discuss union responses to COVID-19 and a strong recovery that puts social first; committing to continuing our Europe-wide fight for fair transport. [Read more](#)

The ETF is now permanently invited to the meetings of [Transport Community's Social Forum](#). A most welcome step forward as the Social Forum is a tool for increased engagement with transport unions in the Western Balkans. Unions who are interested can contact ETF's Head of Operations, Josef Maurer at j.maurer@etf-europe.org. [Read more](#)

Making our voices heard:

Livia Spera was a guest on Eurocontrol's interview series Hard Talk, where she presented ETF's vision of the future of European aviation. A recording of the interview is available online. [Watch here](#)

At a Labor Network webinar, Livia Spera discussed women in transport and presented ETF's [research on violence against women working in transport](#), [how to make transport fit for women to work in](#) and our joint work with employers to increase the share of women transport workers. [Read more](#)

Frank Moreels and Livia Spera joined an FSC-CCOO young workers network to present ETF's work on youth, climate, the future of work and the importance of trade unions. [Read more](#)

#ENDVAW: The [ETF Executive Committee](#) took a stand against Violence against Women on 25/11, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and called on governments to ratify ILO190.

#MakeAmazonPay: On Black Friday, the [ETF team](#) and [Executive Committee](#) called on Amazon to pay its workers fairly, pay for its impact on the environment and pay its taxes. Learn more about the movement [here](#)

#MoreDemocracyAtWork: The ETF joined the ETUC and fellow European Trade Union Federations in handing over a petition to ensure workers' rights must be respected in restructuring processes across all workplaces to Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights through a letter, and to MEPs during an ETUC webinar during which Livia Spera stressed the need to enforce existing rights and improve the legal framework on Democracy at Work. [Read more](#)



The ETF took part in a panel on social challenges in aviation, organised by ENAC School of Civil Aviation. [Read more](#)

The ETF joined over 20 associations collectively representing the entire European aviation ecosystem in issuing a comprehensive collaborative analysis, detailing ways aviation can recover sustainably and more resiliently from the COVID-19 crisis whilst supporting the European Union's Green Deal objectives. [Read more](#)

ETF General Secretary Livia Spera was a guest on Eurocontrol's interview series Hard Talk, where she presented ETF's vision of the future of European aviation. A recording of the

interview is available online. [Watch here](#)

The ETF joined Ver.di in their call for social conditionality in state aid in the case of TUI fly Germany, which is implementing its restructuring plans that will leave many workers in Germany jobless, despite receiving state aid. [Read more](#)

The ETF joined Parat's pilot and cabin crew unions' message to Wizz Air as the company launched domestic flights in Norway: Wizz Air must respect Norwegian law and the workers' right to organise. [Read more](#)



The ETUC and ETUFs handed over a petition for more democracy at work to the European Commissioner Nicolas Schmit and called for concrete and rapid actions to guarantee the effective enforcement and compliance of workers' rights to be informed, consulted and to participate in decision-making before any decision is adopted. [Read more](#)

The ETF took part in a Syndex screening of the new EWCs documentary *If workers are united*. The film can be used as a tool in workers' education on the importance of EWCs and information and consultation rights. The film is now available on the ETF YouTube channel. [Watch here](#)



ECSA and the ETF have appointed 'Image Line Communications' as the lead agency to support them with the implementation of the priority actions identified in their joint declaration of intention on the enhanced participation of women in EU shipping. [Read more](#)

ETF Maritime team has published a paper on the future of waterborne transport. ETF's vision of a fair and sustainable future of waterborne transport shows that there is an alternative to the current business practices in the sectors. [Read more](#)

To alert EU Commissioners to the continuing crisis onboard ships and the urgent need for member states to act, ETF addressed a letter to Commissioners Vălean, Schmit and Johansson. Flag states must ensure the repatriation of seafarers stranded at sea. It is not generosity, but an obligation under maritime law. [Read more](#)

The logo for Dockers, featuring a stylized white icon of a dock with a crane and a ship, followed by the word "DOCKERS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, all set against a blue background.

Expressing support for Spanish affiliates, the ETF addressed a letter to the Spanish Ministers of transport and work, as well as Basque Government, to call for mediation in the conflict between unions and employers in the Port of Bilbao. [Read more](#)

ETF Dockers section met and discussed the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the sector, and received updates on the lashing campaign, young dockers' work within the section, and EU policies. A small working group was established to work on a proposal for a European framework agreement on automation in ports. The section also discussed current issues in European social dialogue, especially regarding the attitude of the European Commission and their lack of responsiveness on some of the key sectoral topics.

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The ETF and FEPORT met with MEP Karima Delli to discuss the INI report on Technical and operational measures for more efficient and cleaner maritime transport. [Read more](#)

The logo for Fisheries, featuring a stylized white icon of a fishing boat with a net, followed by the word "FISHERIES" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, all set against a blue background.

The ETF met with the office of the MEP Pietro Bartolo and discussed the ways in which the fisheries dimension can be strengthened in the Farm to Fork strategy. [Read more](#)

The ETF and Europêche hosted a webinar on the ILO Convention 188 in collaboration with the ILO, the European Commission and representatives of important fishing nations such as France, the Netherlands, Denmark and the United Kingdom. Panellists called for the ratification and implementation of the ILO C188 and its EU equivalent, EU Directive 2017/159. [Read more](#) A recording of the webinar is available on the ETF YouTube channel. [Watch here](#)

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There is growing evidence that the fleets scoring worst in global IUU fishing are also the ones

where more cases of forced labour and human rights and labour abuses are observed. To stop imports of fish products from countries that are violating environmental as well as labour standards to the EU, European Social Partners of the fisheries sector adopted a resolution, urging the Commission to take appropriate actions. [Read more](#)

European social partners in fisheries called for a revision of the current fishing capacity rules to allow for improvements in safety and working conditions and move the industry closer to the European Green Deal goals. [Read more](#)

While fishing for red prawns, 18 fishers from Sicily were detained by the Libyan Coast Guard on 1 September. The ETF addressed a letter to European Commission Vice-President and Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries today, calling on them to take action and facilitate an immediate and unconditional release of these fishers. [Read more](#)

The ETF, Europeche, and LDAC addressed a letter to FAO, urging the organisation to continue with the process of creating guidance on social responsibility in fish value chains. [Read more](#)

ETF Fisheries section met and discussed the unions' response to the changes at EU and global level shaking up the industry. [Read more](#)

At a plenary meeting, the EU Social Partners in the Fisheries Sector – Europêche, Cogeca and ETF – welcomed the presentation of the parliamentary draft report "*Fishers for the future: Attracting a new generation of labour to the fishing industry and generating employment in coastal communities*" of the MEP Manuel Pizarro. While acknowledging the report as an important step in the right direction, social partners call on the policy-makers to recognize the key social dimension of fishing, thus improving the health and safety of fishers and attracting youth to the sector. [Read more](#)



ETF took part in a meeting of CESNI – European Committee for drawing up standards in the field of inland navigation and presented the key elements that future regulations must include to protect workers. [Read more](#)



The ETF Railway Section come together at the beginning of the month to discuss the European Year of Rail, our vision to boost rail freight transport for a successful modal shift and the trade union position on Digital Automatic Coupling aiming to ensure just transition. [Read more](#)

On the topic of the European Year of Rail, the ETF welcomed the agreement within the European Parliament, underlining that EYR must also be the European Year of Railway Workers! [Read more](#)

The ETF spoke at the Gewerkschaft vida webinar on the Court of Justice of the European Union Judgement in the „Henry am Zug“ case, highlighting that the poor ruling does not reflect well on the court and the need for a trade union agenda on how to deal with posting in rail. [Read more](#)



In the framework of their [Trade Unions and Drivers for Safer Roads in Europe](#) project, ETF published the preliminary results of its study on driver fatigue, lifting the veil on this chronic disease in road transport with irrefutable facts, figures and testimonials of over 2,800 drivers. Results were used to call on EU policy makers to take immediate action, and demands will continue as our full report is due to come out in 2021. [Read more](#)

In the meantime, eye-opening testimonials from drivers revealed the gravity of the issue during the first workshop, from 18-19/11, of the project where truck drivers and trade unions representatives to discuss causes, the extent of, and countermeasures against driver fatigue. [Read more](#)

A second workshop with bus and coach drivers promises further insight and will take place on 8 and 9 December.

In social dialogue, on 25/11, the ETF signed a [charter to improve the treatment of drivers at delivery sites](#) with the IRU and the ESC (European Shipper's Council) and discussed the COVID-19 recovery and enforcement of the Mobility Package at the annual plenary. They also discussed their work programme for 2021 – 2022. [Read more](#)

On the topic of the Mobility Package, the ETF welcomes the [newly published legal guide on driving and rest time rules](#), considering that the European Commission sticks to the political objectives of the regulation notably the improvement of working conditions in the sector, fair competition between operators and road safety for all road users. [Read more](#)

URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The ETF UPT Committee published their position on the Sustainable Urban Mobility Package, highlighting our key demands, our vision of the role of public transport, the role of EU decision-makers and public authorities, our take on Smart Mobility and the need for fair conditions in the sector. The European Commission is planning to [revamp the package next year](#) and this will flow from the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy due to be published this Wednesday. [Read more](#)

The ETF is ready to make sure that the transport workers of urban mobility aren't put aside in this revision.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Yes! More Women in Transport: The ETF Women's Committee continued its campaign to make transport fit for women to work in throughout the month of November:

ETF's Inga-Lena Heinisch presented the campaign at the European Commission's Women in Transport Platform for Change meeting on 10/11, highlighting the need to join forces to establish a gender-equal transport sector. [Read more](#)

ETF General Secretary, Livia Spera, discussed women in transport at a Labor Network webinar on 12/11 and presented ETF's research on violence against women working in transport, how to make transport fit for women to work in and our joint work with employers to increase the share of women transport workers. [Read more](#)

On 19/11, World Toilet Day, we underlined that access to toilets is a serious issue affecting the health and safety of women at work. Part of providing a safe and adequate work environment is having and providing access to decent sanitary facilities accompanied by recent testimonials from women in transport. [Read more](#)

On 25/11, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the ETF led the way with the publication of its Workplace Guidance to address violence and harassment against women at work. [Read more](#)

On the same day, the [ETF Women's Committee](#) and the [ETF Executive Committee](#) reiterated their call on governments to ratify the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention No. 190 and

Recommendation No. 206. [Livia Spera, ETF General Secretary](#) also supported ETUC's call to ratify the Convention.



ETF Youth Committee proposed an equality resolution which was adopted by the ETF Executive Committee on 25 November. The resolution calls on the ETF and its affiliates to actively address the topics of diversity, equality and representation in their structures and their work. [Read more](#)

ETF Youth Committee organised a webinar to discuss the impact of automation and digitalisation on young workers and needed trade union response, and to present examples of how unions have been using digital tools to their advantage. [Read more](#)

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