

**18 November, 17:30,
Ace Events, Av. d'Auderghem 22, 1040, Brussels, Belgium**

Strengthening Collective Bargaining and Increasing Minimum Wages Across Europe:

Next Steps to Achieve the Objectives of the Adequate Minimum Wages Directive.

Concept

This high-level conference will bring together **trade union leaders, academics and policy makers** to reflect on and discuss the **judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in case C-19/23**, concerning the **Adequate Minimum Wages Directive** (EU 2022/2041). The judgment, delivered on 11 November, has confirmed **the importance of adequate minimum wages and the collective bargaining across the European Union.**

The conference will examine **the legal, political, and social implications** of the ruling, its potential effects on **national wage-setting systems**, and its significance for the broader **future of social Europe**. The event will provide a forum for **exchange and dialogue** on how the Directive can be effectively implemented to strengthen workers' rights, tackle in-work poverty, and promote upward wage convergence throughout the EU.

Beyond considering the Court's decision, the conference will reaffirm **the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)'s commitments** to achieving the Directive's full objectives and ensure quality jobs across Europe. Discussions will highlight the ETUC's central priorities:

- Securing fair and adequate wages for all workers in Europe;
- Reinforcing collective bargaining systems as the foundation of strong social dialogue;
- Ensuring that no Member State or worker is left behind in the pursuit of decent living standards and equitable growth.

This event will serve both as a moment of reflection on the implications of the Court's ruling and as a call to action for policymakers, trade unions, and social partners to continue advancing the vision of a more socially just and cohesive Europe.

Please follow the **registration link [here](#) by 14 November, 2025**

Programme

17:30-18:00	Registration
18.00-18.05	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reiner Hoffmann, Vice - President, FES</i>
18.05-18.20	The ETUC vision: Strong bargaining, fair wages - Pillars of Europe's Social Contract <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Esther Lynch, ETUC General Secretary</i> Power in action: Building the Europe workers deserve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tea Jarc, ETUC Confederal Secretary</i>
<i>Chair: Tea Jarc, ETUC Confederal Secretary</i>	
18.20- 18:45	Impact of the AMWD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Torsten Müller, Senior Researcher, ETUI</i> • <i>Christine Aumayr-Pintar, Senior Research Manager in the Working Life unit, Eurofound</i>
18.45-19.45	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Li Andersson, MEP, Chair EMPL. Committee on Employment and Social Affairs</i> • <i>Andriana Sukova, Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.</i> • <i>Gabriele Bischoff, MEP, Vice-Chair, S&D</i> • <i>Neele Boelens, Federation of Dutch Trade Unions FNV</i> • <i>Knut Dethlefsen, Director of Competence Centre on the Future of Work, FES</i>
19.45-20.20	Q&A / Exchange with ETUC affiliates
20.20-20.30	Conclusions and trade union action <i>Tea Jarc, ETUC Confederal Secretary</i>
20.30-21.30	Reception

Event language: English
Interpretation: French, Italian