

EWPPC Conference 2023

Securing workers' participation in cross-border company restructuring

The European Workers' Participation Competence Centre (EWPPC)
of the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)

14-15 March 2023

**Venue: International Trade Union House, Auditorium
5, Boulevard du Roi Albert II / 1210 Brussels / Belgium**

Invitation to register

Dear Colleagues,

You are invited to attend the next EWPPC Conference, which will take place in Brussels on Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 March 2023. The EWPPC Conference brings employee representatives and other practitioners, academic experts, trade unions and policy-makers together to discuss relevant research and to debate topical issues around workers' participation.

The 2023 EWPPC conference will explore how workers' participation can shape cross-border company mobility. What role can employee representatives and trade unions play when companies undertake legal restructuring across borders? What is the impact on board-level employee representation?

The 2019 EU Directive on Cross-border Conversions, Mergers and Conversions is due to be transposed into national law by January 2023. This Directive creates a framework for companies to 'convert' to a company form from another Member State's company law system; it modifies the existing framework for companies from two or more Member States to merge; and it creates a framework for companies to divide up into smaller companies in two or more Member States.

Drawing on long-standing ETUI research on workers' rights in company law, the ETUC successfully worked to convince policy-makers that workers' rights to information and consultation at European and national levels must be explicitly provided for throughout the whole legal re-organisation process, and that the Europeanisation of board-level employee representation systems must be more clearly spelled out.

In plenary sessions and focused working groups, and using examples drawn from practice and insights gained from research, the participants will engage directly with the opportunities and rights laid down in the EU legislation on cross-border company restructuring.

You will find the Programme below.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Registration

Members of European works councils or SE-works councils and trade unionists and researchers who are experts in this field are cordially invited to register for this conference.

Please apply for registration on-line at your earliest convenience and preferably **by 2 March 2023.**

[Click here to register \(link\)](#)

Working languages

We plan to provide interpretation in English, French, and German. Further interpretation in two further languages may be provided for depending on the needs of registered participants.

Travel

After registering via the link above, you will receive an email informing you if your application is accepted for participation in the conference. In case of confirmation of participation, you will also receive an email with all the necessary information and the procedure to follow for the organization of your travel and for the reimbursement of your travel expenses after the meeting.

Therefore, please do not organize your trip until your registration has been confirmed.

If your registration is confirmed, ETUI will make all necessary hotel reservations on your behalf based on the information you provide on your registration form.

Additional information

Should you need any additional information please do not hesitate to contact our secretariat, Catherine Rihoux, crihoux@etui.org

You will receive further details about the hotel accommodation in due course.

With best regards,



Aline Hoffmann
EWPC Coordinator
ETUI, Brussels

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Programme

Tuesday 14 March 2023

12:00 *Registration and lunch*

13:30 **Opening and welcome**
Aline Hoffmann, ETUI

13:45 **What does the EU Company Law Package mean for workers' rights? Overview of new rights to information and consultation and the europeanisation of board-level employee representation**
Aline Hoffmann, ETUI

14:15 **What do we know about cross-border company mobility?**
Marcus Meyer-Erdmann, ETUI

14:30 **What do we know about the transposition so far?**
Sig Vitols, ETUI

14:50 **Introduction to the workshops**

15:00 *Coffee Break*

15:30 **Parallel workshops**

- 1) **Transposition of the EU Company Law Package: What should be in the national legislation?**
- 2) **How will information and consultation work in practice?**
- 3) **What happens when board-level employee representation becomes international?**

17:00: **End of the day**

18:30 **Apéritif & Conference Dinner**

Wednesday 15 March 2023

08:30 *Coffee*

9:00 **Reports from the workshops and discussion**

10:30 *Coffee Break*

11:00 **ETUI Talks: Workers are stakeholders too: workers' rights in company law**

*ETUC Confederal Secretary Isabelle Schömann
in conversation with Sig Vitols, ETUI*

12:00 *Lunch*

13:30 **Your company could be next: When cross-border company mobility internationalises board-level employee representation**

Input and discussion

- **How will the company law package impact board-level employee representation?**
Aline Hoffmann, ETUI
- **Learning from experience I: The impact of the Cross-Border Mergers Directive on board-level employee representation**
Marilou Hubers, University of Maastricht
- **Learning from experience II: Europeanisation of board-level employee representation in SEs and other MNCs**
Sara Lafuente, ETUI

15:00 **Closing session: Outlook and next steps**

15:30 *End of the Conference*