

NETLEX CONFERENCE 2023

“Making workers’ rights real: trade unions and enforcement tools”

9&10 November 2023

European Labour Authority (ELA), Bratislava
Slovakia

Draft programme

Interpretation: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Slovak (tbc)

Day 1 – Enforcing workers’ rights

08:30 – 09:00 Registration of participants

09:00 – 09:45 **Welcome and Introduction**

09:45 – 10:45 **Session I: Enforcement**

This opening session will focus on the importance of enforcement and will address this by assessing the impact of EU legislation such as the Directive on minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals and the Seasonal Workers' Directive.

10:30 - 10:45 Q&A with participants

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:30 **Session I continued: Enforcement**

This session will focus on mechanisms that can assist trade unions in their role ensuring that labour rights are enforced. More specifically, it will provide participants with an understanding of how the complaints mechanism of the European Labour Authority (ELA) functions, as well as the opportunity to engage with colleagues from the transport sector who have first-hand experience with submitting complaints.

12:15 – 12:30 Q&A with participants

Lunch 12:30 – 14:00

14:00 – 15:30 **Session II: Protecting labour rights through regional mechanisms**

This session will tackle enforcement from the perspective of regional human rights instruments, highlighting the labour rights issues in the region while also highlighting the technical assistance and capacity building work of the Council of Europe.

The session will also be an opportunity for national trade unions, including the regional Trade Union Council Solidarnost, to discuss their involvement with Council of Europe monitoring and reporting mechanisms

15:15 – 15:30 Q&A with participants

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 - 17:00 **Session II continued: Protecting labour rights in conflict areas**

The final session of the first day will put a spotlight on the support provided so far but also the human rights and social rights issues that Ukrainian affiliates (FPU Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine, KVPU Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine) have been addressing in the context of the conflict.

16:45 – 17:00 Q&A with participants

18:00 – 19:00 Walking tour of labour and social history of Slovakia

19:30 – Dinner

Day 2 – Legislative developments and future priorities

08:30 – 09:00 Registration of participants

09:00 – 10:30 **Session I: Achieving fair pay for workers**

This first session will look into the impact that EU legislation has had on achieving fair pay for workers. The session is divided into two panels, one will focus on the Posting of Workers Directive, analysing its impact since its adoption in 1996 and revision in 2018. The second panel will focus on the state of play and future challenges of legislation adopted more recently, such as the directive on adequate minimum wages in the European Union and the Pay Transparency Directive.

10:30 – 10:45 Q&A with participants

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30 **Session I continued: Looking ahead - priorities in view of the 2024 European elections**

The final session of the conference will provide a platform for a debate on the priorities for trade unions and workers in view of the upcoming European elections in 2024.

12:30 – 12:45 Q&A with participants

12:45 - 13:00: **Conclusions**

- Isabelle Schömann, ETUC Deputy General Secretary

13:00: end of conference lunch

