

Benchmarking Working Europe 2008



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Since the launch of the Lisbon Strategy, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) together with the European Trade Union Institute for Research, Education and Health and Safety (ETUI-REHS) has produced an annual Benchmarking publication for the European Social Summit in order to draw attention to the state of working Europe and to contribute to the practical implementation of a social benchmarking process.

Its aim is to establish what progress has been made in selected areas of importance to workers and which are of crucial significance for a Social Europe.

This year's report tackles the issue of Europe's social reality. It highlights in particular the issues of quality employment and the need to ensure that the European workforce receives a fair share of economic gains.

The report notes that while employment is undoubtedly rising, this increase has been achieved through the creation of non-standard forms of employment. Wages are also suffering. European workers are not receiving real increases in pay in line with the real growth.

Strengthening the European social dimension (particularly an effective social dialogue and effective worker participation in decision making) will be, the report argues, an important factor in determining the continuing success of a united Europe. It will also be essential for mobilising support for European policies.

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