

INDUSTRIALL EUROPE ELECTION 2019 MANIFESTO

TIME TO PUT WORKERS FIRST!



industriAll
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION

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IndustriAll European Trade Union is a federation of independent and democratic trade unions representing manual and non-manual workers in the metal, chemical, energy, mining, textile, clothing and footwear sectors and related industries and activities.

We speak for around 7 million working men and women united within 177 national trade union affiliates in 38 European countries.

We act together with the aim of optimising our strengths to better protect and advance the rights of the workers in our industries and sectors.

We want to preserve the achievements of the European integration process: peace and democracy, access to good education for all, social security, protection of human rights, freedom of expression... This legacy may not be undermined.

However, we are concerned about the crisis of trust in the European project among workers and citizens. Indeed, the financial crisis, self-defeating deregulation policies, terrorism, Brexit, the refugee crisis, and social exclusion have all contributed to rising sentiments of populism, xenophobia and nationalism.

All this has put the European Union at the crossroads: either it is reshaped and reformed into a more inclusive and social Europe, or it will collapse.

Therefore, we call on all workers in the European Union to go out to the ballot boxes next May 2019 and cast their vote in favour of a Europe that enhances social progress, builds solidarity, creates decent jobs and allows a good quality of life for all.

We call on the resurgence of a European project based on its core values i.e. social values!

WE WANT A EUROPE THAT:

- ✳ Stands up for workers' rights and guarantees employment security.
- ✳ Promotes fair and inclusive societies that are open, respectful, diverse and do not discriminate.
- ✳ Protects citizens and fights against poverty
- ✳ Upholds core values of the European Union: respect of human dignity and human rights, democracy, freedom and equality.
- ✳ Ensures democratic and transparent decision-making of the European institutions, and enforces European policymakers' accountability.
- ✳ Guarantees an independent justice, fights corruption and ensures the rule of law.
- ✳ Supports the European social model regarded as a benchmark worldwide and built by the previous generations since WWII.
- ✳ Offers employment prospects and a bright future for the young.
- ✳ Addresses climate change by implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the targets set by the Paris Agreement to become "zero-net emission".
- ✳ Has the ambition to maintain a thriving industry within its borders.



THEREFORE, INDUSTRIALL EUROPEAN TRADE UNION WILL CAMPAIGN FOR THE FOLLOWING KEY

1. QUALITY JOBS FOR ALL.

We need quality jobs with good wages, job security, safe and healthy workplaces and a high level of social protection. Time has come to end the 'bad job recovery' with the increase of precarious work and in-work poverty. The current recovery offers a unique opportunity to replace the neoliberal mantra that 'any job is better than no job' with a European strategy for 'more but better jobs'.

IndustriAll Europe demands:

- 1 Access for all to standard full-time open-ended contracts.
- 2 A pay rise to allow workers across the EU to get their fair share in generated wealth and to support the economy.
- 3 To combat old and new forms of precarious work: each and every worker must be covered by a work contract, flexible and temporary work must be limited, and work must be predictable. Abusive use of part-time work as well as zero-hour contracts must be prevented.
- 4 To combat wage competition and the persistent wage gaps within the EU. Where necessary a minimum wage which corresponds to a living wage should be set up.
- 5 To strengthen Collective Bargaining Systems as the best way to tackle inequalities, guarantee good wages and working conditions for the benefit of the many not the few.
- 6 To ensure equal opportunities for all and tackling discrimination on labour markets.
- 7 To end in-work poverty and the exploitation of workers.
- 8 To keep older workers in the workplace.
- 9 To support a swift integration of migrants into the labour markets.
- 10 To regulate the gig economy and platform work. In particular, all workers must have access to good working conditions and a decent level of social protection irrespective of their employment contract.
- 11 To offer a job guarantee to all workers that lost their job.

2. TIME TO MOVE IN A SOCIAL DIRECTION.

The past decades have seen a rise in income and social inequality. Austerity policies and deregulation of labour markets have put enormous stress on our societies. They have led to unemployment and poverty. This trend must stop. Confidence in the European project will only return if Europe contributes to creating a fairer and more equal society. The EU must support an effective and fair redistribution of wealth and opportunities and put social rights at the same level as economic freedoms. In this way it must become a real Social Union as much as it is an Economic Union.

IndustriAll Europe demands:

- 1 Concrete and swift implementation of the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- 2 A reliable social safety net must be available to all workers across the EU. They deserve a decent protection against social risks: unemployment, health, age, accidents at work.
- 3 Fair and progressive income taxation.
- 4 Equal pay and equal working conditions.
- 5 Decent pensions at a retirement age that is compatible with a healthy life expectancy and which takes the harshness and difficulties of working conditions into account.
- 6 To fight against social dumping.
- 7 Fair taxation by progressive tax systems, fight against tax avoidance and evasion, a European system of corporate taxation, cracking down on tax havens and letterbox companies.
- 8 Fair trade by strong and enforceable chapters on labour rights in bilateral trade agreements, effective instruments to fight unfair trade practices, multilateral rules to create a fair level playing field to avoid a global race to the bottom.



3. DEMOCRACY AT WORK.

Democracy and social justice do not stop at the factory gate nor at the office door. As part of the European social model we defend, workers must be involved in any decision which may affect the future of their company, their job, hence ultimately their life. To do so they have to be supported by strong trade unions which are crucial for sharing prosperity, guaranteeing good working conditions and defending labour rights. Democracy in the workplace is all the more needed at a time of massive transformation of our industries driven by ever-growing globalisation, digitalisation, greening and ageing of our societies. The jobs of thousands of Europeans are expected to change dramatically in the coming years..

IndustriAll Europe demands:

- 1 That workers be in a position to anticipate as early as possible and shape the massive restructuring of our industries to ensure a sustainable and socially responsible transition.
- 2 That national and European workers' rights to information, consultation and participation in company decisions as well as collective bargaining be properly enforced and reinforced.
- 3 To stop immediately all attacks on workers' fundamental rights to information, consultation and participation carried out at European level and in several countries.
- 4 Clear minimum standards across Europe to guarantee that alternative solutions are actively sought to prevent redundancies and precarious jobs.



4. LET'S MANUFACTURE OUR FUTURE.

During the crisis 4 million industrial workers lost their job as a result of irresponsible behaviour in the financial sector. Today it is time to restore lost industrial capabilities and to launch a 'Made in Europe 2030' strategy as a shared common and ambitious project, capable of creating badly needed industrial jobs. Industry must again become an engine for positive social, industrial and environmental change.

IndustriAll Europe demands:

- 1 Strengthening the role of industry in delivering the solutions for our 'grand societal challenges' (energy, climate, ageing, digitalisation, urbanisation,). Developing new industrial activities in a clean economy by exploring the synergies between the economy and sustainable development is probably the most important challenge for industrial policy.
- 2 Promotion of public and private investments to drive sustainable economic growth.
- 3 Industrial action plans for all sectors of strategic interest.
- 4 A territorial balanced industrialisation with special attention to the less developed and industrial transition regions.
- 5 Increased support to research and innovation in order to keep industry at the cutting edge of technological developments. The first industrial application of this support to be set up in the EU.
- 6 Industrial and labour market policies enabling structural changes resulting from the "deep decarbonisation" of European industries, in particular energy intensive sectors, to be accompanied in terms of keeping jobs.
- 7 The development of a circular economy which creates additional jobs in recycling, maintenance, repair, re-use and re-manufacturing.
- 8 Addressing the challenges of and preparing workers for the digital economy.



5. A TRANSITION TO A SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY THAT LEAVES NO ONE BEHIND.

Building an economy that is sustainable, circular and low-carbon is an overarching societal objective. However, it creates important challenges that need to be addressed in order to avoid social disruption. Organising a 'Just transition' is at the heart of our activities. This is also supported by the preamble of the Paris Agreement which invites parties 'to consider the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce'. Therefore, our environmental ambitions must be met by social policies with the same level of ambition. Environmental and social sustainability must go hand in hand.

IndustriAll Europe demands:

- 1 To put in place the necessary flanking measures to find a decent solution for every single worker affected by the transition: stepping up vocational education and training and the right to lifelong learning to secure workers' up- and re-skilling, regional re-development plans, a social dialogue that anticipates change, support value chain re-positioning of companies. All of this will require substantial funding and European coordination.
- 2 A fair energy transition has to be organised by setting ambitious goals for energy efficiency and renewables while guaranteeing at the same time secure and sufficient energy to both citizens and companies, at affordable prices.
- 3 European industries need to be protected against carbon leakage (relocation of investments because of loose environmental legislation elsewhere). Free emission rights at the level of the top 10% best performers should be guaranteed.



FOR A EUROPE WITH A FUTURE!

The European project is the best guarantee for social and economic progress across the continent. It is a unique model that is able to combine economic progress with social protection and that has brought prosperity and social cohesion. However, it has been weakened and jeopardised by neo-liberal policies of austerity and deregulation and by populist and nationalist forces that aim to dismantle it. As European trade union movement, we stand up to:

- ✱ a neoliberal agenda leading to social dumping and the dismantling of social protection.
- ✱ discrimination amongst people and the pitting of workers and citizens one against another.
- ✱ pressure on workers, wages and social dialogue.
- ✱ increasing economic and social disparities amongst European regions and people.
- ✱ precariousness and in-work poverty.
- ✱ eroding solidarity and the using of refugees as scapegoats.

Instead, we want the European Project to once more be an engine for social progress. To build a common market based on cooperation, solidarity and fairness and to make Europe a great place to live for all citizens, we have to stand up and raise our voice. Therefore, industriAll Europe calls you, more than ever, to vote in May 2019:

For a strong, inclusive, democratic Europe as the best way to support workers' rights and jobs with decent work, strong protection via collective agreements and recognised participation rights.

DO NOT FORGET: ONLY THOSE WHO VOTE WILL HAVE A SAY!



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