



In the spotlight

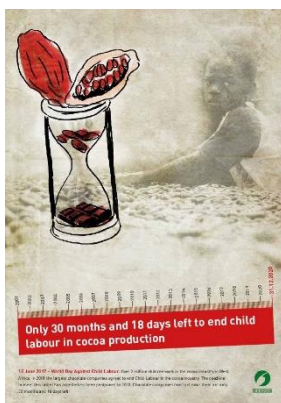
GENERAL

EFFAT inaugurates new offices



On 29 May 2018 EFFAT celebrated their new offices with a welcome drink. EFFAT affiliates and the EFFAT secretariat clinked glasses and enjoyed moments of conviviality in the newly refurbished premises. The inauguration followed the first day of the Executive Committee meeting which paved the way for EFFAT's next mandate. The EFFAT secretariat wishes to thank the affiliates for their valuable contributions and warm participation.

World Day Against Child Labour - 12 June 2018



This year, the ILO World Day Against Child Labour (WDAKL), combined with the World Day for Safety and Health at Work (SafeDay), shine a spotlight on the global need to improve the safety and health of young workers and end child labour. [The ILO campaign](#) stresses the critical importance of removing children below the minimum age for work from all forms of child labour, including hazardous work, and ensuring they enjoy quality education and attend school at least until they complete compulsory education and reach the legal minimum working age.

The EFFAT Cocoa Steering Committee campaigns for Children in cocoa farming for the right to be protected from all forms of child labour and hazardous work, and has produced campaigning material that you can find [here](#).

FOOD

EFFAT-FoodDrinkEurope digitalisation project kick-off



The first meeting of the joint team and of the experts took place at the EFFAT premises on 18 May to discuss the project's base elements and other planning activities. The first workshop for members in Eastern and Central Europe will take place in Budapest on 25-26 October. The second workshop for Northern Europe will take place in Denmark on 5-6 February 2019. This project should help us design policies by better understanding the impact of digitalisation and robotization on the food manufacturing sector, particularly in terms of employment opportunities and challenges;

professions; work organisation; skills and career paths. For further information, please contact e.brentnall@effat.org

Project VS/2017/0381 on New professions and career paths in the food and drink industry- Delivering high level food industry skills in the digital economy, carried out with the financial support of the European Commission.

AGRICULTURE

Agricultural unions from Central Europe advise on CAP reform



On 26 April representatives of trade unions and agricultural chambers from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland and Lithuania met in Prague following an invitation from the Czech Agricultural Workers' Union OSPZV-ASO to discuss common demands for the future European Agricultural Policy. The debate focused on demands for a fairer form of direct payments and the European Commission's proposals to cover them.

ETUC sets up working group on hand-held machines



At the request of the European Federations EFBWW and EFFAT, the ETUC is establishing a cross-sector working group to develop proposals to reduce health hazards related to hand-held machines. With the support of the European Trade Union Institute ETUI, the current standard developments will be monitored and the exhaust emissions of this type of machine will be reduced.

TOURISM

Unhappier Meal – Tax avoidance still on McDonald's menu



On 14 May 2018, a [new report](#) on McDonald's tax practices was released by EPSU, EFFAT and SEIU. The report shows that McDonald's has significantly changed its corporate structure after the European Commission started investigating its tax dealings with Luxembourg, using tax avoidance mechanisms in Europe and low-tax and secrecy jurisdictions around the world. Having moved headquarters to the UK just after the Brexit vote and to Delaware in

the USA, the new corporate structure is so obscure that the actual tax base is currently unknown, not allowing for public scrutiny of the companies' accounts, including taxes owed and paid. [#unhappiermeal](#)

Solidarity with TGI Fridays Workers in the UK



On 18 May 2018, workers at TGI Fridays' in the UK went on strike over a change in tip policy which could cost waiting staff £250 a month in lost wages. EFFAT [supported the strike](#) of the TGIF workers and asked all member organisations to sign the [letter of support](#) urging TGI Fridays' CEO to sit down with workers and UNITE the Union to find a solution to the dispute and to guarantee fair wages and tips.

COMPANY POLICY

EC proposes to boost social dialogue in transnational companies



The European Commission has published an [evaluation of the European Works Council Directive](#) (recast [Directive 2009/38/EC](#)). It proposes to write an EWC handbook and allocate € 7 million to social partners to implement the Directive and help run EWCs efficiently. Commissioner for Employment Marianne Thyssen said that 'We should build on companies who already make good use of European Works Councils and use the knowledge of EU social partners to stimulate this instrument and to make existing EWCs more effective'. Stakeholders, including national authorities and social partners, consider the rules under the new Directive appropriate and effective. According to the report, the information given to workers by management has grown in quality and scope. However, the Commission found that the consultation procedure needs improving.

Annual EFFAT EWC-TNC conference shows the way in transnational companies



The annual EFFAT EWC-TNC conference took place in Leuven (Belgium) on 16-17 May 2018 as part of the EU project *Anticipation of change and the sustainable management of structural changes: Promoting innovative actions to strengthen employee involvement and social partners' cooperation*. During the two-day conference members of national and European works councils, trade union officers, union experts and university professors highlighted the challenges faced by trade unions in TNCs operating in the EFFAT sectors. Around 50 participants shared experiences and good practices in national and European bodies. Topics of debate included the newly announced ETUC democracy at work strategy; effective collective bargaining cooperation in TNCs; and the impact of new technologies in the EFFAT sectors. [Read more on the EFFAT website](#)



The latter topic was tackled from various perspectives: automatization; smart factories and robotization; and the gig economy. Speakers included a colleague from NGG and a Delivery Hero rider and member of the newly created SE Works Council. Their contributions shed light on the potential impacts of technology on work organisation and industrial relations, as well as the legal challenges involved. The findings of an EFFAT project about working conditions at McDonald's were also discussed during the conference.

Participants then visited the AB InBev brewery in Leuven in view of the debate on new technology and labour rights.

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EFFAT is the European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food, Agriculture and Tourism sectors. As a European Trade Union Federation representing 120 national trade unions from 35 European countries, EFFAT defends the interests of more than 2.6 million members towards the European Institutions, European employers' associations and transnational companies. EFFAT is a member of the ETUC and the European regional organization of the IUF.