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COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN WESTERN EUROPE IN 1990 AND PROSPECTS FOR 1991

ETUI

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COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN WESTERN EUROPE IN 1990 AND PROSPECTS FOR 1991

The European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) is the research, information/documentation and educational instrument of the European trade union movement. It was established in 1978 on the initiative of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) to deal with European aspects of economic, social and political developments of particular importance for workers and their trade unions. The following national trade union centres are members of the ETUC ; at the same time they are also members of the ETUI, and as such constitute its governing bodies :

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FRANCE	CFDT CGT-FO CFTC
GREAT BRITAIN	TUC
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FOREWORD

This is the twelfth annual review of collective bargaining in Western Europe to be published by the European Trade Union Institute. The systematic comparative study of the most important collective bargaining developments covers twenty countries. The report gives some insight into the various situations and developments prevailing in the individual countries, as well as providing general descriptions and overall trends.

The report consists, for the first time, of five chapters. The first chapter looks at the social and economic background against which collective bargaining took place in 1990. The second and third chapters describe the progress and outcome of the collective bargaining as regards the central issues of pay, purchasing power and working time. The fourth chapter outlines the most likely developments to be expected in 1991 In the fifth chapter we give a summary of the collective agreements in force in the European metalworking industry.

This fifth chapter represents a new component extending the coverage of the ETUI annual collective bargaining report. Our intention is, in the future, to look at the specific collective bargaining situation in individual industries. By way of example, this year´s report contains an up-to-date account of the collective bargaining situation in the European metalworking industry which has been supplied by the European Metalworkers´ Federation (EMF).

The main source of information for this report has been replies to a questionnaire on collective bargaining received from ETUC member confederations. In the main, these replies were received at the end of March 1991. The questionnaire used is given in an annex to this report. In some cases, the information has been supplemented with information from those responsible for monitoring collective bargaining in various national centres, information available at the ETUI, reports from European Industry Committees and discussions in the ETUC Collective Bargaining Committee.

The following national trade union centres sent the ETUI information in reply to the questionnaire :

ÖGB (Austria)
CSC-FGTB : joint report (Belgium)
SEK (Cyprus)
LO-FTF : joint report (Denmark)
UGT, CC.OO. and ELA/STV (Spain)
SAK and TVK (Finland)
CFDT and CGT-FO (France)
TUC (Great Britain)
GSEE and ADEDY (Greece)

ASI (Iceland)
GWU and CMTU (Malta)
CGIL-CISL-UIL : joint report (Italy)
LCGB and CGT (Luxembourg)
LO (Norway)
FNV-CNV : joint report (The Netherlands)
UGT-P (Portugal)
DGB and DAG (Germany)
LO-TCO : joint report (Sweden)
SGB : (Switzerland)

Chapters I and IV of the report were written by David Foden, Chapter II by Giuseppe Fajertag, and Chapter III by Jean-Jacques Danis, all research officers at the ETUI.

Responsibility for the report and its contents as a whole lies with the whole ETUI team.

As was the case for previous reports, this year's review of collective bargaining in Europe was prepared jointly by all the ETUI research staff, but it would have been impossible to produce this report without the active co-operation of the unions' national centres. Our particular thanks go once again to those colleagues responsible for collective bargaining and research, to the many individual trade unions and to the ETUC Collective Bargaining Committee for their advice.

Brussels, June 1991

Günter Köpke
Director

Technical notes

- Languages : this report was produced simultaneously in English, French and German and is initially published in these three languages. It will subsequently be published also in Spanish, Italian, Dutch and Norwegian.

- Deadline for copy : the deadline for submission of copy for this report was mid-April 1991. In most cases, developments occurring after that date could not be taken into account.

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