



## Conference Agenda

# Public Service Trade Unions – Effective Intervention in the European Semester

From 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm on 8 October 2018  
and 9.00 am to 5.00 pm on 9 October 2018

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**Venue :** International Trade Union House (ITUH) – Auditorium, Boulevard du Roi Albert II 5, 1210 Brussels

This conference is the first major event of a two-year project run by the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) with the support of the ETUCE education federation. The project also involves two research organisations – the Brussels based European Social Observatory (OSE) and the University of Nottingham. The aim of the project is to investigate the impact of the European Semester on public services and to assess the role of public service trade unions in trying to influence the process at national and European levels.

### Monday 8 October 2018

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| 1.00 – 2.00 pm | Registration and buffet lunch   |
| 2.00 – 2.15    | Welcome from EPSU and ETUCE and brief outline of project  |
| 2.15 – 3.30    | <b>Public services and the European Semester</b><br>With its major focus on public finances and wide-ranging recommendations on public service reform, the European Semester has a lot to say about public services but is it more about costs and efficiency than quality and access?<br><b>Professor Howard Stevenson</b> , University of Nottingham<br><b>Jeroen Jutte</b> , Head of Unit, DG Employment, European Commission<br><b>Guillaume Afellat</b> , Social Affairs Advisor, CEEP European public service employers' organisation<br><b>Richard Pond</b> , EPSU |
| 3.30 – 4.00    | Coffee break  |

4.00

**Trade unions and the European Semester**

The European institutions have made positive statements about the need to increase the role of the social partners in the European Semester, but have things changed for trade unions and do they have more influence at European level?

**Bart Vanhercke**, Director, OSE

**Marco Cilento**, Senior Advisor, European Trade Union Confederation

**Tuesday 9 October 2018**

**Country panels**

**9.00 – 9.15 am Introduction: Bart Vanhercke, Director, OSE**

The first five sessions will be taken up with panel discussions on each of the five countries that have been chosen as case studies for this two-year project. Each panel will include a brief introduction by the researchers (OSE or University of Nottingham) and contributions from representatives of the national affiliates of EPSU, ETUCE, ETUC along with the relevant European Semester Officers from the European Commission.

**9.15 – 10.00** First country panel – **France**  
**Ramón Peña-Casas**, OSE  
**Agnès Thibault**, European Semester Officer  
**Sébastien Dupuch**, Force Ouvrière  
**Dominique Pognon**, CGT-SP

**10.00 – 10.45** Second country panel – **Ireland**  
**Howard Stevenson**, University of Nottingham  
**Patrick O’Riordan**, European Semester Officer  
**Richy Carrothers**, Forsa

**10.45 – 11.00** Coffee break

**11.00 – 11.45** Third country panel – **Italy**  
**Sebastiano Sabato**, OSE  
**Nicoletta Grieco**, FP-CGIL  
**Antonio Marchini**, FP-CGIL

**11.45 – 12.30** Fourth country panel – **Denmark**  
**Torbjörn Olausson**, European Semester Officer  
**Per Brogger Jensen**, FOA

**12.30 – 2.00** Lunch

**2.00 – 2.45 pm** Fifth country panel – **Latvia**  
**Agnese Dagile**, European Semester Officer  
**Līga Barina**, LVSADA  
**Martins Svirkis**, LBAS  
**Sanita Skiltere**, Latvian local government organisation



#### 2.45 – 3.30 **European Social Dialogue and the European Semester**

The European Social Dialogue includes committees that cover millions of public service workers in local and regional government, central government administrations, hospitals and health services and education – but what kind of role do these committees play in the Semester process

**Inga Pavlovaite**, Independent researcher

**Paola Cammilli**, Coordinator, ETUCE

**Daniel Wisniewski**, General Secretary, EFEE, European Federation of Education Employers

**Mathias Maucher**, EPSU policy staff health and social services

#### 3.30 – 4.00 **Coffee break**

#### 4.00 **Moving towards a more social Semester?**

The latest round of country reports and country specific recommendations include references to the European Pillar of Social Rights. *Does this reflect real progress or are social issues still subordinated to economic priorities? What instruments are needed at EU level to implement the Pillar?*

**Sebastiano Sabato**, Researcher, OSE

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### **Practical information:**

**Venue:** International Trade Union House (ITUH) – Auditorium, Boulevard du Roi Albert II 5, 1210 Brussels

**Languages:** active interpretation in English, Danish, French, Italian and Latvian

**Reimbursement:** thanks to the financial support of the European Commission both EPSU and ETUCE can cover travel and accommodation costs for some participants. Please see the relevant details produced separately by each Federation.

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