

EWPCC Conference 2016

Building Bridges: combining information, consultation and board-level employee representation in European multinationals

European Workers' Participation Competence Centre (EWPCC)
of the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)

24-25 February 2016

Venue: International Trade Union House
5, Boulevard du Roi Albert II / 1210 Brussels / Belgium

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The EWPCC Conference series aims to better understand the interlinkages between different forms of workers' participation, as well as to develop a shared understanding of the different ways in which it might take place across different levels of companies within different national and European settings.

The 2014 EWPCC Conference focussed on developing a comparative understanding of the role of board-level employee representation across Europe. The EWPCC Conference held in February 2015 explored the wide variety of ways in which local information and consultation takes place at the national/ local level. As the culmination of this series, the upcoming February 2016 EWPCC Conference will attempt to build bridges between different forms of participation, so as to enable an understanding of the possibilities and limits to the articulation, or linking up, of employee interest representation across all levels of the company.

In plenary sessions and focussed working groups, we will draw on examples drawn from practice and insights gained from research in order to explore interactively the following themes:

- How and why are processes of information and consultation articulated from the local to the national to the transnational level. What works, what doesn't?
- What possibilities are there to link these forms of workers' participation with employee representation on company boards? What are the risks and opportunities therein?
- What is the role of trade unions and their European federations in facilitating these processes?
- How can this be brought to match the parallel processes of hierarchical decision-making within companies?

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DRAFT AGENDA

Wednesday, 24 February 2016

12:00 *Registration and lunch*

13:00 **Opening and welcome:** *Aline Hoffmann, ETUI*

13:15 **Keynote Address:** *Peter Scherrer, ETUC Deputy General Secretary*

13:45 **Linking information and consultation procedures at local and European level:**
Results of a legal study by Eurofound: Peter Kerckhofs, Eurofound

14:30 **Panel discussion:** Linking board-level employee representation with the work of European Works Councils: lessons and inspiration from experience

16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:30 **Panel discussion:** Linking EWC work with local and national-level employee representation: lessons and inspiration from experience.

18:00 **End of the first day**

19:30 **Dinner**

Thursday, 25 February 2016

9:00 *Opening of the second day of the conference*

9:05 **Parallel Working Groups**

- 1) Taking Stock: identifying communication patterns around my EWC/SE-WC
- 2) Board-level employee representatives: What models exist, and what are their rights?
- 3) ETUC proposal for an integrated architecture of employee involvement
- 4) What does SE and EWC law and practice offer to support links between the EWC and the local level?

10:30 *Coffee Break*

11:00 **Plenary Session:** panel discussion of the conclusions of the working groups

11:30 **Panel discussion: The way forward?**
Thomas Händel, Member of the European Parliament
Luc Triangle, Deputy General Secretary IndustriAll
Volker Telljohann, IRES Emilia-Romagna
EWC Member (N.N.)

13:00 **End of the conference**
Lunch