



**Euromf, in cooperation with the European Centre for Workers' Questions (EZA) and with the support of the European Commission, would like to invite you to the seminar:**

## “THE ROLE OF LABOR ORGANISATIONS IN THE GREEN DEAL”

**4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023 - Genk, Belgium**

### CONTEXT AND AIM

In the autumn of 2019, the Von Der Leyen committee presented the Green Deal. The objective of this is 'transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use'. The corona crisis has also once again demonstrated that we will have to relate to our planet in a different way.

Workers' organizations can play an important role in the realization of the Deal. Care must always be taken to ensure that achieving objectives is accompanied by social justice. But it is also important that workers' organizations are aware of the content and importance of this. After all, the Green Deal wants to focus on 'protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts. At the same time, this transition must be just and inclusive.' These are also core values that put workers' organizations first.



In order to achieve a circular economy, certain jobs will disappear and others will be created. It is important that decent work is put first in these new jobs.

Social dialogue also has a role in the green deal. For example, the Climate Pact will build on exchange within the social dialogue committees. In addition, the Deal recognizes the importance for companies and their workers of active social dialogue helps to anticipate and successfully manage change. In order for this social dialogue to run smoothly, it is important that the labor organizations are well informed about the theme: what role can labor organizations play in carrying out the green deal?'. The environmental change must always go hand in hand with social justice. We must always be aware of the strong regional differences within the EU. It is therefore important that there is good exchange between the labor organizations of the different regions within the EU. In this way, better-supported positions can be reached.

Both the academic and the practical side of the story will be brought to attention.



PROGRAM

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October P.M.

16.00 Welcome & introduction by the president of Euromf Bart Gaublomme

**Patrick Carnotensis**

*Former head of the study and training department of the Flemish Union ACV Miners' Centre and currently Coordinator European en Euregional Projects at the Flemish health insurance CM.*

Mr. Carnotensis was directly involved in the Limburg reconversion and brings us, as an introduction in the theme, his experiences of that time.

(speaker has confirmed)

**Bela Galgoczi**

*Senior researcher of ETUI (European Trade Union Institute)*

Will look at the Green Deal from a trade union perspective.

(speaker has confirmed)

19.00 Dinner

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October

09.00 Bustour & visits

VISIT: Maasmechelen

- **Ilse Olaerts** (speaker has confirmed)  
employee of RLKM and involved in the Nationale Park Hoge Kempen, as a result of a successful conversion of an old mine and industry site into a thriving tourist nationale park.
- **Raf Terwingen** (speaker has confirmed)  
Mayor of Maasmechelen about how a city council views these developments

VISIT: Genk: Ford site en Thor park

- **Wim Dries** (speaker has confirmed)  
Mayor of Genk and president of VVSG (Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities), about the consequences of an abrupt shutdown of a large car assembly factory, how it affects a local community and ultimately what can be done afterwards

VISIT: C-mine, successful conversion of an old mine and industry site into a thriving cultural center en site.

- **Anniek Nagels** (speaker has confirmed)  
Council member of the city of Genk, responsible for the policy area culture

DURING THE DAY:

**Paul Boutsen**, director of Het Vervolg/COALFACE , an independent organization in the Belgian Limburg mining region, pioneering in local and regional development, a point of contact for innovation and creativity in mining communities.

(speaker has confirmed)

19.00 Dinner



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October A.M.

9.00 Welcome and introduction

Retrospective of the previous day's visits

**Manfred Körber** (speaker has confirmed)

Managing director NBH will make a report about the 'Revierwende' process and the work in various networks for transformation in the Rhenish mining area.

**Speaker to be confirmed**

Brief overview of the currently available European funding opportunities for the reconversion of industrial regions

**Cindy Franssen** (confirmed)

Member of the European Parliament, group of the European People's Party  
Brief and actual state of affairs on the topics of our seminar.

Conclusions and closure

12.45 Closing words

#### DATE AND VENUE

The seminar will take place on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

Hotel ECU, Europalaan 46, B-3600 Genk

#### CONFERENCE LANGUAGES

Simultaneous interpretation in **English and German**.

#### REGISTRATION FEE

The participation fee has been fixed to the amount of **150 euro**.

IBAN: BE04 0688 9173 1131

BIC: GKCCBEBB

Mention: Eza-seminar 10-2023 + name participant(s)

#### INFORMATION

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