



Activity report in the frame of the ETUC Project 2019/06 (SDG)

Belgium SDG Forum, 5/10/2021, with 45 participants to the workshop **A social Just Transition for Green & Decent Jobs** organised by the 3 Belgium trade unions ACLVB-CGSLB, ACV-CSC and ABVV-FGTB, and 670 overall registered participants

The 4th edition of the Belgian SDG Forum was held on the 5th of October under the theme of a green transition. Almost **30 workshops on various themes** such as SDGs and Education, SDGs and Finance, SDGs for green and decent Jobs SDGs after COVID-19, SDGs and local government, SDG and policy guidelines, etc. See: <https://sdgforum.be/>. This event took place “live” at Tour & Taxi Brussel, with a Covid-save ticket pass. All participants were digitally check in and screen and the list of 45 participants to our workshop attached in Excel is a subtraction form the scanned attendees at the reception, validating their attendance.

The Belgian unions took the floor in plenary and in several workshops with a clear message: measures are needed not only to curb global warming but also, given its inevitability, to support its destructive effects on economic activity and employment.

Several measurements are possible. Few are neutral in terms of social impact. Depending on the option chosen, we will rather touch such and such other social category. However, the ecological transition must be fair. Its cost must be fairly distributed. It cannot be done to the detriment of workers who have already found themselves on the front line of precariousness following financial and health crises.

The 3 Belgium Unions organised a specific workshop, with 45 participants, highlighting the importance of developing, simultaneously and on an equal footing, the role SDG 13, SDG 8 and SDG 10 (including social dialogue) can play in contributing to a socially just transition in obtaining green and decent work. The workshop program included:

Introduction on green and decent jobs, looking at the interlinkage of the SDGs 8, 10 and 13, by Maresa Le Roux, ACLVB-CGSLB

Part 1: Panel discussion concerning a trade union view on a Socially Just Transition for Green & Decent Jobs from an International, European and Belgium level, moderated by Karin Debroey (ACV-CSC), with Panellist: Benjamin Denis, Industry All Europe and Thierry Aerts (ABVV-FGTB)

Part 2: Trade union initiatives and good practices presented by:

- Charline Wandij, Conseiller Environnement Régionale Wallonne, CGSLB
- Fien Vandamme, environment advisor ACV-CSC and Marc Alexander, trade union representative Nyrstar, ACV Metea

- Kobe Martens, environment advisor ABVV-FGTB, Brussels

At the Belgian SDG Forum, companies each year receive the opportunity to give themselves a positive ecological image. The Unions advocate to go beyond this green marketing. We placed the focus on our trade union initiatives by / for our delegates, such as:

- a guide to concrete actions to help negotiate the reduction of waste and energy consumption in the Brussels hotel sector.

- a concrete case from a trade union representative on the work floor at Nyrstar

- a tool resulting from an inter-union survey in Wallonia, intended to help the delegations to take a step back and situate themselves in a perspective of the development of their work on the environment and / or mobility.

We also placed the attention on the international and Europe levels, where we address the issues of:

- How Industry All Europe is supporting the energy transition towards a carbon neutral society under what conditions, taking a socially just transition into account. In the campaign Industry All Europe have just launched for a socially just transition, they stress the importance of social dialogue.
- The key trade union points under discussion in COP 26 of Glasgow for a socially just transition?
- The European Commission published its 'Fit for 55' package... with some critical sounds from the CES and Industry All - EU. Looking at steps taken in relation to the sectors and regions which are most affected by the transition to a socially neutral carbon economy and that decarbonization does not lead to deindustrialisation.

For the trade unions there will be no enhanced acceptability of the green transition without social justice. The social pillar cannot become the poor relation of the SDG pillars compared to the ecological and economic pillars. Businesses should respect the standards of the ILO and follow the principles of its Declaration on Multinationals. As for the European Union, it is rightly proposing a carbon tax against global ecological dumping.

To raise awareness during the whole of the SDG Forum we has a special exhibition stand, where we will able to share material and inform participants who could not attend our workshop on our work done on the Agenda 2030.