



ETUC project Raising awareness on SDG's amid workers and trade union leaders: decent work, environment and rule of law

Caroline Rietbergen, 3/25/2021

The United Nations has set 17 global sustainable development goals (SDG). In September 2015, government leaders from 193 countries committed themselves to this sustainable development agenda, including the Netherlands. The goals must be achieved by 2030: *a lot of work to be done!* The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) monitors the state of affairs in the Netherlands (versus Europe) and annually records the findings in the *Monitor Broad Prosperity & Sustainable Development Goals*.

With the support of the European Commission, ETUC has launched a project to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals among trade unions and to strengthen trade union strategies in the field of SDG: decent work, environment and rule of law. The FNV has subscribed to this project and has been awarded a subsidy for organizing a seminar and producing a report.

The FNV is in various ways involved in these subjects. SDG 8 *Fair Work and Economic Growth* is central to the trade union movement. We combine this vision with SDG 1 *No Poverty*, SDG 3 *Good Health and Wellbeing*, SDG 5, *Gender Equality* and SDG 10 *Reducing Inequality*. We do this nationally, European and globally. Putting economic growth and employment at the center does not mean that we sacrifice other goals, such as the goals that drive a circular economy (SDG 12 *responsible consumption and production*) and a better climate (SDG 13 *Climate action*). The trick is to link the goals in such a way that everyone benefits. There it sometimes seems to be chafing.

The Netherlands has an SDG movement in which more than 1,000 civil society organizations, youth groups, municipalities, financial institutions, educational and knowledge institutions and residents' initiatives participate. Each SDG objective has its own alliance with a plan of action. There is an SDG action day every year. The website www.sdg nederland.nl contains a roadmap in which the action plans are included. As an organization, FNV is not part of the SDG community. Yet many themes affect the policy of the FNV. The question is whether this is because we are not a natural partner for the organizations that are working on it or whether this is because the SDG goals are a long way off for most of us. The fact is that of all FNV sections, only *FNV Mondiaal* refers to the objectives on their website.

Target of the seminar

The SDG goals of the UN are a wonderful stepping stone for making the FNV policy visible and possibly taking it further. We have concrete action points for many of the objectives that we can strengthen in this context.

The aim of the seminar is on the one hand to give more publicity to the FNV administrators in the sectors and regions and on the other hand to give more publicity to what the FNV is doing with regard to the objectives. It is useful to link the seminar to the recovery agenda, in which *greening the economy* plays a major role. It is also useful to look across the border. What program does e.g. the Deutsche Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB) have in this field?

Target audience

Union leaders and executives of the FNV, with an emphasis on Industry, Transport and Logistics, Construction, Energy, the Agricultural sector and Waste (100 people). In addition, some invitees from foreign trade unions, such as the DGB, ABVV and CMKOS, but also the members of the ETUC



committee Sustainable Development, Energy and Climate Change. The seminar will be held in Dutch. Translation NL-English-NL will be present.

Preliminary program

10.00 -10.10

Word of welcome by Kitty Jong, vice president FNV (5 minutes)

Word of welcome by Ludovic Voet, confederal secretary ETUC (5 minutes)

Three round tables of 45 minutes each, including reflection from foreign associations.

10.10-11.05

Block 1 A green economy, how do we get there?

SDG 8, 9, 12 and 13

Introduction by Bas van Weegberg

Round table discussion:

- Tatasteel (Roel Berghuis, union leader FNV Metal)
- Chemelot (Patrick Meerts, union leader of the FNV process industry)
- Waste and energy (Hanan Yagoubi, union leader FNV waste and energy sector)
- Agricultural (Leo van Beekum, union leader FNV agricultural green)

Reflection from the DGB

11.05-12.00

Block 2 Employment in the green economy, supply and demand in order?

SDG 4, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13

Introduction by Rob Witjes (UWV)

Round table discussion:

- Closure of power plants and the Coal Fund (Chant van den Berg, Union leader FNV Harbor's, president of the Coal Fund)
- The wave of renovation and employment in Construction (Janna Mud, Union leader FNV Construction)
- Offshore Wind and the collective labor agreement (Charley Ramdas, Union leader Nautilus)
- Regional energy strategies and employment (Judy Hoffer, Union leader FNV)
- Circular economy as a new job engine (Caroline Rietbergen, policy advisor)

Reflection from CMKOS

12.00-12.45

Block 3 Investing in a green economy, investing in people

SDG 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13

Introduction by: Kitty Jong about FNV Recovery Plan

Round table discussion:

- Investing in training and development (Isabel Coenen, policy advisor)
- Socially responsible investment (Gerard Roest, FNV pension fund manager)
- Rens van Tilburg (sustainable Finance lab, University of Utrecht)

Reflection from ABVV

12.45-13.00

Closing with main conclusions by Ludovic Voet, general secretary ETUC (5 minutes)

Last word for the moderator

During the blocks, the participants are actively involved via the Mentimeter where they are asked for their opinion. The questions will be asked in English.