



European Trade Union Confederation [ETUC]  
Confédération européenne des syndicats [CES]

## **TRADE UNIONS DELIVER AN URGENT MESSAGE TO EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT MINISTERS**

Brussels, 3 December 2007

***The General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), John Monks, today addressed the following message to government ministers attending the EU Employment and Social Policy Council on 5 December.***

*"By approving the proposed Temporary Agency Workers Directive, you can extend much needed protection to several million vulnerable workers. You can revive the idea of an effective Social Europe. You can give reassuring substance to flexicurity.*

*"Germany should not bow to threats from the UK that such approval would put the EU Reform Treaty at risk. This directive would be a positive, not a negative step for Europe in the eyes of working people. I applaud the efforts of our affiliates in the UK, Germany, Ireland and Malta to have their governments see sense.*

*"At the same time, do not endorse the proposals on amending (weakening) the Working Time Directive. To approve these, especially on top of a timid decision on temporary agency workers, would signal that, frankly, Social Europe is giving up its ability to regulate in the employment area. This would be a huge set back for the whole idea of Europe."*

***The ETUC exists to speak with a single voice, on behalf of the common interests of workers, at European level. Founded in 1973, it now represents 82 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 12 industry-based federations.***

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