



Katholische Arbeitnehmer-
bewegung Deutschlands



Nell-Breuning-Haus:
Lernort Arbeit und
Menschenwürde



European Trade Union Institute
for Research, Education
and Health and Safety



European Centre for
Workers' Questions

Initiative "Dialogue between the Church and Trades Unions in Europe"

Invitation to the conference "Fair wage and fair income in Europe" on 26 June 2008 in Brussels

Dear Mr/Ms

For many years now, trades unions in Europe have been resisting "wage dumping" and "working poor". For example, the European Trade Union Confederation is currently running a campaign under the motto "on the offensive for fair pay". A large number of low-pay sectors have arisen, in which wages are no longer sufficient to support the people working in them. Employees in low-wage sectors are at greater risk of unemployment. Low wages are responsible for family poverty and lead to low pension entitlements. From an economic viewpoint, private consumption has the largest share of economic demand. Low wages lead to a decline in domestic demand in the individual European countries.

"A just wage for work provided" (Laborem exercens, LE 19.1) is one of the central themes of the Church's teachings for the establishment of a just and fair relationship between employees and employers. Pope Leo XIII stated that every contract of employment should guarantee the worker a wage that enables him and his family to live from it in a respectable and upright manner.

With the subject of "Fair wage and fair incomes in Europe" we will continue the dialogue begun in 2007 between the trades unions and churches in Europe.

We therefore cordially invite you to a conference

**"Fair wage and fair incomes in Europe",
on 26 June 2008 in Brussels**

at the Conference Centre International Trade Union House, Boulevard du Roi Albert II,5

Birgit Zenker, Chairperson of KAB Deutschland

Roswitha Gottbehüt, Secretary-General of EZA

Georges Schnell, Director of ETUI-REHS Education department

Wilfried Wienen, Pedagogical Director of Nell-Breuning-Haus

Programme

Thursday, 26 June 2008, beginning at 10.00 am

Welcome and introduction by the organiser with presentation of the participating organisations

"Fair wages and fair incomes in Europe"

-Paper from the viewpoint of an economist

Prof. Jörg Huffschild, Group European Economists for an Alternative
Economic Policy in Europe

-Paper from the viewpoint of a social ethicist

Prof. Walter Lesch, Professeur d'éthique, UCL, Université catholique de Louvain
Faculté de théologie & Faculté des sciences philosophiques

Discussion

Communal lunch

Afternoon:

Roundtable discussion with representatives of European trades unions and church organisations

Summary of the conference

Look to the future and agreement of further steps for dialogue between trades unions and churches in Europe

End: 4.00 pm

Conference location:

Conference Centre International Trade Union House
Boulevard du Roi Albert II,5, B – 1210 Brussels, Room B

Conference languages: English, German, French

Co-ordination:

Wilfried Wienen, Nell-Breuning-Haus, Wiesenstr. 17, D – 52134 Herzogenrath (Germany)
Tel. +49-2406-9558-12, Fax: +49-2406-4632, E-mail: wilfried.wienen@nell-breuning-haus.de
Internet: www.nell-breuning-haus.de

Birgit Zenker, KAB Deutschlands, Tel: +49-0221-77220, E-mail: info@kab.de
Roswitha Gottbehüt, EZA, Tel: +49-2223-29980, E-mail: eza@eza.org
Georges Schnell, ETUI-REHS, Tel: +32-2-2240530, E-mail: education@etui-rehs.org

The conference is held with the financial support of the
European Commission.



Please inform us whether you wish to attend the conference,
which of the conference languages you prefer and whether we should book accommodation
in Brussels for you from 25/06/2008 to 26/06/2008.