

Union Internationale des Syndicats des Travailleurs du Bâtiment, du Bois et des Matériaux de Construction

Trades Unions International of Workers of the Building, Wood and Building Materials Industries

Unión Internacional de Sindicatos de Trabajadores de la Construcción, Madera y Materiales de Construcción

Международное Объединение Профсоюзов Трудящихся Строительства, деревообрабатывающей
Промышленности и Промышленности Строительных Материалов

Internationale Vereinigung der Gewerkschaften der Werktätigen der Bau-, Holz- und Baumaterialienindustrie



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UITBB Statement – April 28: World Day for Safety and Health at Work

Given that today, April 28, is World Day for Safety and Health at Work, UITBB would like to remind that unfortunately, according to ILO data, over 2.3 million women and men around the world are victims of work-related accidents or diseases every year, which means a staggering 6,000 deaths every single day. Every year, there are around 340 million occupational accidents and 160 million victims of work-related illnesses. In the European Union, the sector is considered to be the most dangerous one with over 3,000 fatal labour accidents a year. According to Eurostat data, there were 3,552 fatal accidents at work in the EU-28 during 2017. These numbers are tragic and unacceptable.

When we are referring to the health and safety issue, we mean the measures taken to ensure the protection and security of the health and life of the workers, from the factors which can gradually or immediately harm them, in the case of a labour accident.

UITBB underlines that the intensification of work, the reduction of wages, the attacks against collective agreements, the extension of flexible forms of employment, the increase in retirement limits and the threat of unemployment, are some of the factors that leave workers exposed in their worksites, endangering their lives. All of these factors, which are more obvious in the workplace and especially in the construction sector, are linked to the anti-labour policy pursued by governments to provide more favorable conditions for the profitability of capital.

Especially this year, with the COVID-19 pandemic raging, it is imperative that everyone focuses on addressing this outbreak, in the context of health and safety at work. UITBB underlines that good safety and health measures should be maintained and observed, even when the global lockdown due to COVID-19 finishes, always aiming to protect workers and their families. We also need to raise awareness on adopting safe and health practices at worksites and pay attention to public health systems.

UITBB reminds everyone that the line of conflict with the policies of governments and capital, which put the lives of workers in front of a firing squad, is the certain orientation if we want to defend our rights, serve our needs, and pave the way for workers to truly eliminate all causes that cause problems at all levels.

On Behalf of the UITBB Secretariat,

Michalis Papanikolaou

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