



## ETUC Solidarity Network

Ensuring a united front to push back against attempts to diminish workers' trade union power is of strategic importance to the ETUC.

The ETUC Action Programme, adopted at the Berlin Congress, commits to setting up a Solidarity Network. [Action point 1.1.10](#) states:

*The ETUC will set up a Solidarity Network for trade union action to rapidly support trade unions under attack due to employer hostility in collective bargaining or industrial disputes including double standards in multinational corporations or due to governmental attacks on the fundamental labour standards, especially the freedom of collective bargaining and the right to strike, with the assistance of the ETUCLEX. This network will provide a flexible and dynamic means for trade unions to seek and provide support to each other and will feed into the work of the Collective Bargaining and Wage Coordination Committee.*

The Solidarity Network brings together ETUC affiliates to share information and coordinate actions that help trade unions under attack. These attacks can be by governments or employers.

The form of actions will vary on a case-by-case basis. The menu of tactics will evolve and be fine-tuned over time and according to experience, but some initial plans are:

- Letters to decision-makers: these can be in the target country, or in the solidarity action taker's domestic country. The key is find out what influence unions have over the target decision-maker.
- Digital action: either coordinating a social media action like a joint video, or setting up a public-facing e-mail sending campaign.
- Actions outside target locations (embassies): get attention (press and social media) in the target country. Actions elsewhere could be used show an international escalation of the domestic situation.

In addition, the Solidarity Network, is a place to share insight and take stock of union-busting practices and key players at European level. This insight can then be used to take strategic action to anticipate and counter union-busting practices.

The Solidarity Network will be run as a pilot for 6 months. Its functioning will be reviewed in September.



## House rules

- Only the President/General Secretary of the union can submit a request for solidarity actions to the network. The action proposal should be sent to [SolidarityNetwork@etuc.org](mailto:SolidarityNetwork@etuc.org).
- European action must fit into a national escalation strategy, with actions taken in the home country. The intended impact of the proposed European solidarity action must be made clear.
- Participation is voluntary. Participation does not mean that all unions represented are expected to respond to all solidarity action requests.
- The ETUC Secretariat leads on actions directed at the EU institutions.
- The ETUCLEX may be requested for legal assistance.
- An online meeting will be held every 2 months.

