
Green Transitions in Europe

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ACW, 14 November 2106, University of
Westminster

Our review of ETUC policy (2015)

- ‘Just transition’ is the dominant policy narrative
 - The ‘just transition’ is a blend of a ‘reactive safety-net’ approach with that of ‘proactive shaping’ interventions
 - Conceptually it draws mainly on a mix of ‘ecomodernism’ with ‘transition’ perspectives
 - ‘create a Just Transition Fund to support workers which would be negatively impacted by the transition to a low-carbon economy’
- ETUC POSITION ON THE STRUCTURAL REFORM OF THE EU EMISSIONS TRADING SYSTEM** 16-17 December 2015
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Proactive shaping

- energy efficiency and end use
 - stronger ambitions are required in the workplace through union-led green workplace projects, and in sectors like transport or buildings, which are less likely to generate relocations of activities and job losses.
 - promoting sustainable transport, low-carbon construction, domestic energy efficiency and green workplace projects to save energy and resource use at work will generate investments that will create skilled, sustainable jobs
 - promotion and investment in decentralized energy generation and, the setting up of smart networks and storage capacities
 - *ETUC (2014) The Energy-Climate package for 2020-2030: The ETUC priorities for a just transition*
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Co-benefits & non-market approaches

PARIS 2015 AGREEMENT ‘The imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs’ Preamble p20 -

- the only use of the term 'transition' in the entire agreement
 - a direct consequence of the lobbying efforts of trade unions internationally over a decade or more
 - COP21 also highlights the 'social, economic and environmental value' of the 'co-benefits' of voluntary mitigation actions
 - the importance of integrated, holistic and balanced non-market approaches
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ETUC 2016 initiative

ETUC Project INDUSTRIAL REGIONS AND CLIMATE POLICIES: TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION?



- Participative case-studies
- UK: Yorks & Humber
- Germany: North Rhine Westphalia
- Spain: Asturias
- Belgium: Antwerp
- Sweden: Norbotten
- Bulgaria: Stara Zagora
- Poland: Silesia

Key messages

Even though the aim of the project is not to be prescriptive about what regional strategies should look like, the following points have been identified as key to build a low-carbon industrial strategy which would fit with the trade union's demand for a "Just transition":

- Need for policy planning at regional level
 - Governance structures must ensure workers participation
 - The EU must accelerate the deployment of low-carbon breakthrough technologies
 - A skilled workforce is an asset in the transition of regions towards a low-carbon economy
 - Local support for decarbonisation must be strengthened through the mitigation of its social impact and through the maximisation of its benefits
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- retains a focus on the 'safety net' approach
 - links this more explicitly to the need for a new industrial policy though this remains vague
 - introduces the importance of 'place' into the just transition with two significant consequences for trade union strategies:
 1. agreements with subnational authorities
 2. winning public engagement and support
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shift toward proactive shaping

Our 2016 review of European sectoral confederations – different emphases

Interviews and policy document analysis with key European sectoral confederations

- IndustriALL – Mischa Terzyk 21 June - leans toward the ‘safety net’ but with a proactive shift
- European Federation of Building and Wood Workers (EFBWW) – Sam Hagglund, Rolf Gehring 21 June - lean toward ‘shaping’ but often hampered by reactive concerns
- European Transport Workers Federation (ETF) Eduardo Chagas, Sabine Trier 22 September, as with builders
- European Public Service Union (EPSU) Jan Willem Goudriaan, Richard Pond 22 September - more contradictory in relation to old and new sectors



- Enthusiasm for promoting retrofit schemes and developing skills for low emission buildings
- Never felt that ETUC would give this very high prominence
- Post 2008 preoccupation with reactive defensive demands
- Partners in 'Renovate Europe' coalition
Hagglund, Gehring interview, June 2016

Millions of new jobs



The deep renovation of the EU building stock will kick-start the European economy by helping to create up to 2 million local, direct jobs by 2020¹. Buildings-related activity accounts for ~10% of EU GDP and ~8% of direct employment. Building and construction currently employs over 14 million workers – set to rise in the next few years in order to service the needed renovation.

RENOVATE EUROPE





EUROPEAN TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION

FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES TRAVAILLEURS DES TRANSPORTS



Transport and Environment

Background paper

11 December 2007

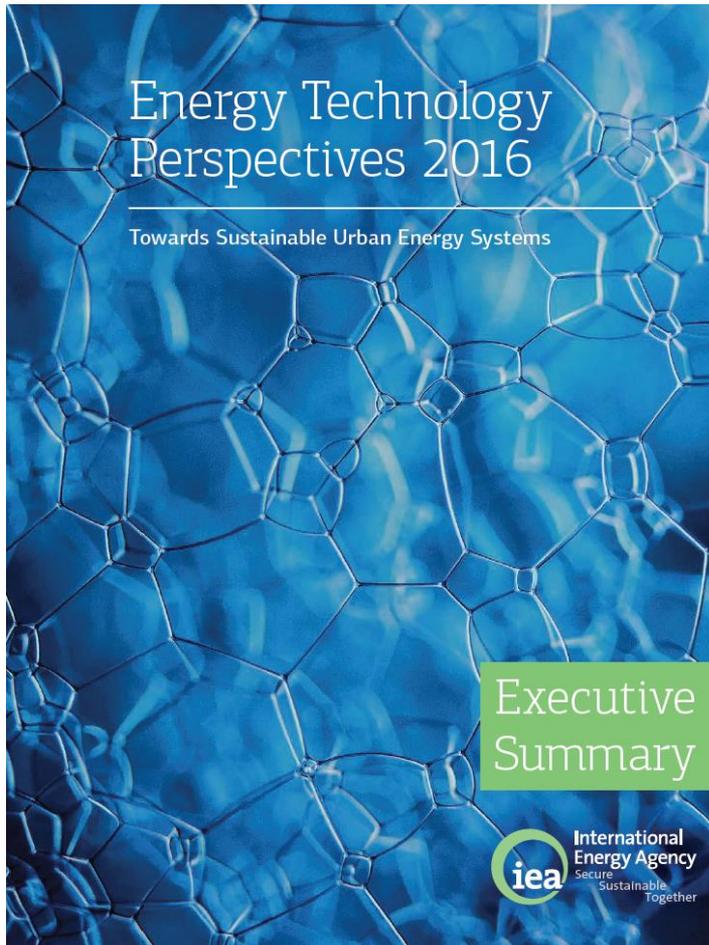
ACV Bouw en Industrie
31 Rue de Trèves, 1040 Brussels



With the support of
the European Commission

- Initiative to address sustainable transport in 2007
- Involved cross sectoral workshops in union for the first time to address systemic issues
- Urban transport seen as important
- Post 2008 reactive pressures

A new convergence on places and end users?



- Cities at heart of decarbonisation
- Building sector
- Transport systems
- Energy networks
- International Energy Agency 2016

Paris COP 21: 'stakeholders' who are not national governments

- 'to address and respond to climate change, including those of civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other subnational authorities' (para 133)
- to 'promote international cooperation in order to mobilize stronger and more ambitious climate action' by this diversity of stakeholders,
- encourages 'the registration of those actions in the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action platform' para 117. The stakeholders are invited 'to scale up their efforts' and 'demonstrate' them (para 134) through this platform (<http://climateaction.unfccc.int>).