



## European Capitals Trade Unions' Network

<https://www.ectun.eu>

**To Esther Lynch**

General Secretary ETUC

**Isabelle Schömann**

Acting General Director ETUI

*Dear Colleagues,*

I am writing to you on behalf of the European Capitals Trade Unions' Network. ECTUN represents Trade Unions of European capitals/regions, which in their turn are members of their national Confederations affiliated to the ETUC or to PERC.

ECTUN offers a space of dialogue among the Trade Unions of the Capital cities/regions, and aims to enhance a regular exchange of information, experience and contacts and to reflect debate and intervene focusing on improving the quality of work and life of workers who live and work in the European capitals. The network is unique of its kind within European TU movement. It aims to build the capacity of TUs in the capital cities and regions in order to actively participate in the formulation, development and implementation of policies concerning the urban space of the capital cities anticipating and preventing the social impact of the respective choices. The reasons for the establishment of such a network were based on the indisputable fact that capital cities are the engines of each country and of the European economy overall acting as catalysts for creativity and innovation. But they are also places where persistent problems, such as unemployment, segregation and poverty occur to a greater extent than in other regions of the respective countries. Urban policies have wider cross-border significance, which is why urban development is central to the EU's Regional policy.

ECTUN is the only TU Network with attention to the EU Urban Agenda (which strengthens the SDGs of the UN), with possible intervention on a European scale, via the Committee of

the Regions, with a high impact on current agendas, namely the UN Agenda 2030. Such an approach is especially important at this time, given the seriousness of the challenges European cities currently face, ranging green and digital transitions, specific demographic changes, the inclusion of migrants and refugees, to the consequences of economic stagnation in terms of job creation and social progress, and to the impact of climate change.

The ETUC has no other attentive and intervening body in this problematic and important area for the evolution towards an uncertain future and therefore has every advantage in supporting and boosting (directly and via ETUI) ECTUN proposing and demanding knowledge, competence, rigour and depth of analysis, political proposal and trade union ambition. Through the years we have established a constant cooperation with ETUC and ETUI. Particularly with the later in developing actions of training for our members and the provision of scientific assistance on a wide range of topics which concern workers in the capital cities and their impact on them.

It is worth assessing the added value of the ECTUN network in terms of TU action at European level, and continuing supporting it, in order to maximize the benefits in terms of strengthening the trade union movement in the European capitals/regions.

ECTUN was established in 1991 and has a light structure with a small Standing Committee, with no funds or income of its own. An important event is the annual meeting of the members of the network, which over the years has become educational with the help of the ETUI.

We hope that we can continue to rely on your support and we are open to your suggestions on how could be coordinated with you in order to continue our cooperation.

I wish you success in tackling the challenges for a more integrated and social Europe, to overcome austerity rules, to reinforce solidarity mechanism and strengthen European values.

Kind regards,

Christina Theochari

ECTUN Coordinator

Athens, 19 October 2023