



Annual Review 2017



Who we are

The European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW) is the **voice and official association of Christian Democratic workers in the EPP.**

Apart from being active within the structures of our mother party, the EPP, we are committed in a number of other European arenas, in particular the European Parliament.

Our main objective is to support the work carried out by our member organisations, maintain good contacts within the EPP family and provide ground for training, discussion and cooperation in order to prepare Christian Democratic workers' organisations to build tomorrow's Social Market Economy.

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The purpose of this activity report is to provide a brief overview of the timing and content of the various EUCDW meetings and to summarise the areas of action in which EUCDW has been working with the European People's Party and the European Parliament. EUCDW aspires to advocate Christian-social political ideas within these institutions, driven by the impetus given to the association on the XI. Congress in 2014.

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Welcome to the EUCDW

The European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW) is the family of Christian Democratic workers' organisations, organisations whose roots run deep in the history of the European continent and which have pioneered the European project from its inception.

Tracing back its roots to the Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* by Pope Leo XIII 125 years ago, which guided Europe's Founding Fathers – Robert Schuman, Alcide De Gasperi, and Konrad Adenauer – EUCDW is committed to strengthening the **Social Market Economy which lies at the heart of the European Union**, successfully combining sustainable economic competitiveness with social justice.

Highlight this year was the celebration of the **40th Anniversary of the European Union of Christian Democratic Workers** on 25 November 2017, with keynote speakers Minister-President of North Rhine-Westphalia Armin Laschet, EPP Vice President and Campaign Director Dara Murphy and Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs Karl-Josef Laumann, which was attended by over 100 participants.

Founded as part of the EPP Family in 1977, the Christian workers movement is among its oldest member associations.



Presidium and Board Meetings

01

Presidium

Vienna, Austria
27 January 2017

The EUCDW Presidium convened for the first meeting of 2017 in Vienna, Austria, to set out the strategic lines for 2017 and adopt the programme and budget for 2017.

02

Board

Vienna, Austria
27 January 2017

The EUCDW Board convened for the first meeting of 2017 in Vienna, Austria, to adopt the Activity Report and Financial Report 2016, as well as the Programme and Budget for 2017.

The Board also set out the priorities for the EPP Congress on 29 - 30 March 2017 in Malta and finalised the EUCDW **Resolution Towards a Pillar of Social Rights — Income Fairness and Social Justice at Work** which was tabled for adoption at the EPP Congress.

03

Presidium and EPP Congress

St. Julians, Malta
29 March 2017

On 29 and 30 March 2017, the XXIV **Congress of the European People's Party** (EPP) convened in Malta. The first day's plenary session featured addresses by the EPP's non-EU heads of state and government, EU opposition leaders and non-EU opposition leaders. The EPP Congress opened as British Prime Minister Theresa May triggered Article 50, officially starting the process by which the United Kingdom will leave the European Union.

The Congress outlined the EPP's vision for how to secure Europe's future for the next decade in the **Congress document *Europe Secures our Future***.

This security is not only about safety, but also about economic stability, social protection and about preparing Europe for the next generations.

EUCDW President Elmar Brok took part in the **panel debate on the Future of Work in Europe**, stressing that in a highly competitive European Social Market Economy economic competitiveness and social progress must go hand in hand and we must ensure that in the future, as in the past, everybody who works continues to have fair and effective income and protection.



Prior to the start of the EPP Congress, the EUCDW met for a **joint Presidium meeting with the members of the EPP Workers' Group** in the European Parliament, where MEP Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, co-rapporteur on the Revision of the Posting of Workers Directive in the European Parliament, went into the details on the state of play of the revision.

On the second day, the plenary session featured addresses by the EPP's EU heads of state and government, leaders of the EU institutions – European Council President Donald Tusk, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, European Parliament President Antonio Tajani and EPP Group Chairman Manfred Weber – as well as EPP leaders.

On the second day of the EPP Congress, delegates also adopted the **resolution *Towards a Pillar of Social Rights — Income Fairness and Social Justice at Work***, tabled by the EUCDW, with an overwhelming majority.



04

Board

Rogaška Slatina, Slovenia
16 September 2017

The Board convened in Rogaška Slatina, Slovenia, for the second Board meeting of the year. Discussions focused on the state of play of the Posting of Workers' Directive in the European Parliament and on the European Commission Reflection Document on the Future of the European Social Dimension.

We had the honour to welcome Mr Janez Cigler Kralj, President of Slovenian Christian workers' movement ZD NSi, to the Board meeting as a keynote speaker.

Furthermore, the Board finalised the preparation and documents for the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the European Union of Christian Democratic Workers.

05

Presidium

Burg Heimerzheim, Germany

25 November 2017

On 25 November 2017, the **European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW) celebrated the 40th Anniversary** of its founding in Burg Heimerzheim, Germany, together with over 100 members and guests.

The celebration kicked off with the EUCDW Presidium meeting, in the presence of the President of the Workers' Group in the European Economic and Social Committee Gabriele Bischoff. The Presidium decided on the venue and date of the XII Congress of the EUCDW which will take place on 15 December 2018 in Vienna, Austria, and adopted the **Resolution *Europe must Protect its Strategic Interests***.



Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the EUCDW

On 25 November 2017, the European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW) celebrated the 40th Anniversary of its founding at the wonderful location of Burg Heimerzheim, Germany.



We welcomed three keynote speakers together with over one hundred members and guests from over 24 European Member States.



Following the welcome and opening address by President and MEP Elmar Brok, the event continued with keynote speeches by Armin Laschet, Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia, Dara Murphy, Vice-President of the EPP and Campaign Leader and Karl-Josef Laumann, Chairman of the CDA Germany and Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of North Rhine-Westphalia. First Vice President of the EUCDW Fritz Neugebauer gave the closing words.



Clockwise from top left: Elmar Brok, Dara Murhpy, Karl-Josef Laumann, Armin Laschet, Fritz Neugebauer, participants

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the EUCDW, we reaffirmed our conviction in European integration and set out concrete proposals for the future of Europe in the **Declaration 40 Years of European Union of Christian Democratic Workers**, adopted at the event.

EPP Workers' Group in the European Parliament

The EPP Workers' Group is a group of MEP's from the European People's Party (EPP) chaired by MEP's David Casa and Jeroen Lenaers who, in cooperation with EUCDW, promote and support the Christian-social positions in the Group of the European People's Party and in the European Parliament.

Unfortunately, the EPP Workers' Group did not convene in 2017.

Political Work

01

European People's Party

EUCDW actively contributed to the drafting process in the EPP Working Group 1 and EPP Working Group 2. In **EPP Working Group 1 on European Policy**, EUCDW contributed in particular to the EPP Congress Document *Securing the Future of Europe* which was presented at the EPP Congress in Malta on 29th-30th March 2017. The document was co-authored by Elmar Brok, President of EUCDW, and Herman Van Rompuy, Emeritus President of the European Council. The EUCDW also took active part in the drafting process of the EPP Resolution on *Ethical behaviour in politics – a responsibility for all members of the EPP; Combatting Islamist Terrorism and Protecting our Way of Life and Addressing the Challenges of Fake News*, adopted by the EPP Political Assembly, Brussels, 4th-5th December 2017.

In **EPP Working Group 2 on Economic and Social Policy**, EUCDW participated in drafting the position papers *Inclusive Growth – Everyone Must Benefit* adopted at the EPP Congress in Malta on 29th-30th March 2017 and the resolution *Strengthening the centre (“middle class”) – the cornerstone of Europe*, adopted by the EPP Political Assembly, Brussels, 4th-5th December 2017.

In his capacity as responsible for international relations of the EPP, EUCDW president Elmar Brok took part in all **Summits of EPP Heads of State and Government**, as well as in the **EPP Political Assemblies**.

02

European Parliament

EUCDW has continued cooperation with the EPP Group Members of the European Parliament, in particular the members of the EPP Workers' Group active in the committee on Employment and Social Affairs, Internal Market and Consumer Protection and Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. This cooperation allows EUCDW to build important synergies between EUCDW, the EPP Group in the European Parliament and the European Commission.

EUCDW put significant efforts in the follow-up of the parliamentary report on a **European Pillar of Social Rights**, adopted on 19th January 2017, which was followed up by the official proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights by the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission at the **European Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth** on 17 November 2017, the first EU Social Summit in 20 years. The Summit which took place in Gothenburg, Sweden, was a key milestone in the broader debate on the future of Europe, kicked off by the European Commission's White Paper and President Juncker's Roadmap for a More United, Stronger and More Democratic Union. It provided a unique and timely opportunity to advance the social dimension of the European Union and its Member States and particularly to promote fair jobs and growth in the EU.

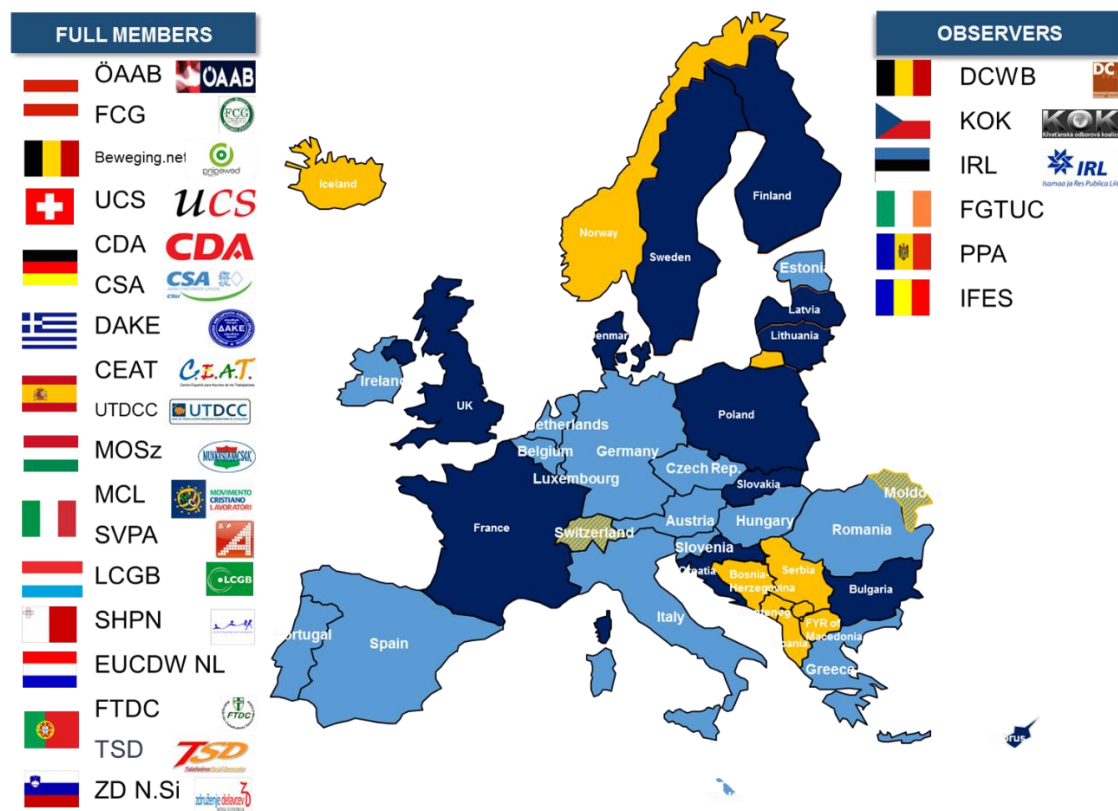
Key achievements in 2017 included reaching a united position on the **posting of workers' rules** under EPP leadership to fight against social dumping and to promote fair mobility throughout the EU, the adoption of the **anti-dumping measures** to counter unfair trade practices by third countries, the conclusion of the **trade agreements** between the EU and Canada and between the EU and Japan, the finalisation of the **European Emissions Trading Scheme** (ETS) from 2021 onwards implementing our commitments from the Paris Agreement on climate change, the **end of roaming charges** so that European travelling within the EU pay domestic prices for roaming calls, SMS and data abroad, the **extension of the European Fund for Structural Investments** until 2020 with up to 500

billion euro, and **strengthening the fight against terrorism** with a new Directive on terrorism clearly classifying the planning and financing of terrorist attacks as well as travelling abroad for terrorist purposes as crimes while setting up a new automated Entry-Exit System registering all non-EU citizens arriving in the Schengen area and putting in place systematic checks against security databases of all travellers, including EU citizens, crossing the European external borders.

Ongoing work started in 2017 and continuing in 2018 which carries our priority focus is the new proposal on **screening foreign investment** in strategic sectors to protect our critical infrastructure and technologies put forward by the EPP Group and now in the pipeline of the Committee on International Trade, the revision of the **driving and rest time and working conditions for transport workers**, and the proposal for a **services e-card** under scrutiny in the Committee on Internal Market and Consumers in the European Parliament. The EP is also ready to set up a new **permanent resettlement mechanism for refugees** and has delivered a sustainable solution for the **revision of Dublin** replacing the country of entry principle with a fairer system based on mutual solidarity. Negotiations on these files and on the strengthening of the posting of workers' rules are ongoing between the Council and the European Parliament.

Member Organisations

Our association brings together **24 member organisations** from 18 European countries, including Christian Democratic trade unions, Christian Social movements and workers' associations in political parties.



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