



european union of christian democratic workers

Annual Review 2018



Who we are

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

Our main objective is to strengthen the European Social Market Economy through close cooperation with the European People's Party (EPP) family and in the European Parliament, to support the work carried out by our member organisations, and to 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 XII. Congress in 2018.

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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 **XII Statutory Congress** of the EUCDW in Vienna on 14 and 15 December 2018. Over 100 leaders and delegates of the European Christian Democratic workers' movements gathered in Vienna re-elected Elmar BROK as the President of our association and to determine the programme for the 2019 European elections.

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

Timisoara, Romania
26 January 2018

The EUCDW Presidium convened for the first meeting of 2018 in Timisoara, Romania, to set out the strategic lines, programme and budget for 2018.

02

Board

Timisoara, Romania
26 January 2018

The EUCDW Board convened for the first meeting of 2018 in Timisoara, Romania, to adopt the Activity Report and Financial Report 2017, as well as the Programme and Budget for 2018.

The Board also set out the priorities for the EPP Congress on 7-8 November 2018 in Helsinki and started preparations on the programme and congress document for the EUCDW Congress in December 2018. The Board also discussed the state of play of the mobility package in the European Parliament, with particular focus on the revision of the driving and resting times and the posting of workers in transport.

03

Board

Brussels, Belgium
20 June 2018

The Board convened in Brussels, Belgium, for an extraordinary Board meeting in preparation of the EUCDW Congress 2018 and the EPP 'Spitzenkandidat' Congress 2018.

Discussions further focused on the agreement reached on the revision of the Posting of Workers' Directive, the state of play of the Mobility Package in the European Parliament after the vote in the Transport Committee, and on the European Economic and Social Committee position on the

proposal on new rules on Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions presented by EESC rapporteur and EUCDW presidium member Christian Bäumler.

04

Board

Brussels, Belgium
26 September 2018

The Board convened for its second ordinary meeting of 2018 in Brussels to finalise the preparation and documents for the EPP Congress in Helsinki where the EPP Spitzenkandidat for the 2019 European elections would be elected, and to present the draft congress document and programme for the EUCDW Congress in Vienna in December 2018.

05

Presidium and EPP Congress

Helsinki, Finland
06 November 2018

On 6 November 2018 the EUCDW delegates and presidium members convened in Helsinki to determine which candidate to support for the position of EPP Spitzenkandidat at the EPP Congress on 7-8 November and to determine their priorities for the EPP election programme.



On 7 and 8 November 2018, the **Congress of the European People's Party (EPP)** convened in Helsinki, Finland.

On the first day of the EPP Congress, over 100 delegates attended a **Roundtable on A New Social Contract for Europe**, co-organised by the EUCDW.

The first day's plenary session further featured addresses by the EPP's EU Opposition Leaders, Party Leaders and the Chairpersons of EPP's groups and member associations, including EUCDW President Elmar BROK.

Ahead of the crucial vote to elect the EPP Spitzenkandidat for the 2019 European elections, the candidates Alex STUBB and Manfred WEBER debated on the main stage. You can watch it [here](#). At the Congress, delegates also debated how to deliver a secure, sustainable, prosperous and fair Europe to all the continent's citizens and how to address Europe's migration challenge. Four policy papers were adopted in preparation of the EPP election manifesto:

- [Policy Paper on a Secure Europe](#)
- [Policy Paper on a Europe for All: Prosperous and Fair](#)
- [Policy Paper on a sustainable Europe](#)
- [Policy Paper on a Europe that defends our values and interests in the world](#)

The Congress of the European People's Party (EPP) elected **Manfred WEBER as the EPP's candidate for President of the European Commission**, ahead of the May 2019 European Parliament elections (see also <https://weber.epp.eu>). You can watch his speech [here](#). Of the 619 valid votes cast by the members of the Congress with voting rights, 492 voted for Manfred WEBER. The EPP pioneered the Spitzenkandidat process, and we continue to support it as an advancement of European democracy and a means of bringing Europe closer to its citizens, making the EU more visible, more transparent and more accessible.



XII Statutory Congress of the EUCDW

On 14 and 15 December 2018, over 100 leaders and delegates from 24 European Christian workers' movements gathered in Vienna for the XII. Statutory Congress of the European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW).

The Congress re-elected **Elmar BROK** as President of the EUCDW with a firm majority and adopted the programme for the 2019 European Elections **For a Strong, Just and Ambitious Union: Confidence in Europe's Future**. Delegates debated how to deliver a secure, sustainable, prosperous and fair Europe to all the continent's citizens and how to strengthen Europe's social dimension in the face of new cross-border challenges from globalisation and automation to migration and climate change.



EUCDW President Elmar BROK

The Congress also elected **David AGIUS** (Malta, SHPN), **Antonio Di MATTEO** (Italy, MCL), **Reiner MEIER** (Germany, CSA), **Javier MORILLAS** (Spain, CEAT), **Fritz NEUGEBAUER** (Austria, FCG) and **Stefaan VERCAMER** (Belgium, beweging.net) as the new Vice Presidents of the EUCDW. The Presidency was further completed by **Ralf BRAUKSIEPE** (Germany, CDA), **Janez CIGLER KRALJ** (Slovenia, ZD NSI), **Nikolaos KIOUTSOUKIS** (Greece,

DAKE), **Fernando MOURA E SILVA** (Portugal, FTDC), **Pedro ROQUE** (Portugal, TSD) and **Robert SCHADECK** (Luxembourg, LCGB).



EUCDW Presidium, from left to right: Robert SCHADECK, Reiner MEIER, Elmar BROK, Ralf BRAUKSIEPE, Antonio DI MATTEO, Ria OOMEN-RUIJTEN, Fritz NEUGEBAUER, Pietro Giubilo, Javier MORILLAS, David AGIUS, Fernando MOURA E SILVA. Not pictured: Stefaan VERCAMER, Janez CIGLER KRALJ, Nikolaos KIOUTSOUKIS and Pedro ROQUE

Ivo BELET and **Ria OOMEN-RUIJTEN** were confirmed as Secretary General and Treasurer of the organisation, respectively.

All information regarding the Congress in Vienna, as well as the Congress document, can be found on the EUCDW's social media channels and on the website.

The plenary session on the second day featured **keynote addresses** by European Commissioner **Marianne THYSSEN**, Austrian Federal Minister Dr **Heinz FASSMANN**, EPP Vice President **Dara MURPHY**, EPP Group MEP and co-Chair of the Workers' Group **Jeroen LENAERS**, Principal Adviser for European Social Policy at the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC), European Commission **Patrick DEVELTERE**, Deputy Secretary General **Katja LEHTO KOMULAINEN** of the European Trade Union Confederation, and the Leaders of the EUCDW's member organisations.



Clockwise from top left: EUCDW Vice President David AGIUS chairing a panel on *Leading the Future on Digitalisation and Upgrading Social Protection in Europe* with Jeroen LENAERS, Patrick DEVELTERE and Katja LEHTO KOMULAINEN; European Commissioner Marianne THYSSEN; EPP Vice President Dara MURPHY chairing a panel on the *Role of Christian Workers' Movements in the 2019 European Election Campaign* with Peter WOUTERS, President of Beweging.net (BE) and dr. Norbert SCHNEDL, President of FCG (AT); Austrian Minister dr. Heinz Faßmann; President Elmar BROK with EUCDW 1. Vice President Fritz NEUGEBAUER and FCG President Norbert SCHNEDL; the Congress Presidency; EUCDW 1. Vice President Fritz NEUGEBAUER; Congress delegates.

The Congress was organised with the support of the Robert Schuman Foundation and MEP Jeroen Lenaers (EPP Group).

EPP Congress Roundtable on ‘A New Social Contract for Europe’

At the European People’s Party (EPP) Congress in Helsinki on 7-8 November 2018, where Manfred WEBER was elected EPP Spitzenkandidat for the 2019 European elections with the firm support of the EUCDW, the European Union of Christian Democratic Workers also organised a thought-provoking panel discussion on the topic of the “**New Social Contract for Europe**”, which was attended by over 100 persons. In a fast-moving world, the way we live and work is changing. We need to embrace these challenges and turn them into opportunities.

The poster features a blue background with a white dotted pattern. At the top left is the EPP Congress Helsinki 2018 logo. The main title 'A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR EUROPE' is in large white letters. Below it, the date and time '7 NOVEMBER 11:00-12:30' and location 'ARENA' are listed. A circular portrait of Marianne Thyssen is shown with her name and title 'EU Commissioner' below it. Three other speakers are listed with their names and titles: Ludmila Němcová (President, Czech Association of the Czech Seniors), Marcello Gamberale Paoletti (Vice President, YEPP), Maurice Limmen (Chairman, Trade Union CNV), and Saara-Sofia Sirén (MP, Finnish Parliament, Moderator). At the bottom are logos for EPP, EUCDW, ESU, and YEPP.

EPP CONGRESS HELSINKI 2018

ROUNDTABLE

A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR EUROPE

7 NOVEMBER
11:00-12:30
ARENA

MARIANNE THYSSEN
EU Commissioner

LUDMILA NĚMCOVÁ
President, Czech Association of the Czech Seniors

MARCELLO GAMBERALE PAOLETTI
Vice President, YEPP

MAURICE LIMMEN
Chairman, Trade Union CNV

SAARA-SOFIA SIRÉN
MP, Finnish Parliament
Moderator

epp **euCDW** **esu** **yepp**

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 and Working Group 2 on Economic and Social Policy**, EUCDW contributed to the preparation of the EPP Congress documents and took active part in the drafting process of the *Policy Paper on a Europe for All: Prosperous and Fair* and *Policy Paper on a sustainable Europe*. These policy papers were adopted at the EPP Congress on 7 and 8 November 2018 in preparation of the EPP election manifesto.

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 continued close cooperation with the **EPP Workers' Group in the European Parliament**, a group of like-minded Members of European Parliament in the European People's Party (EPP) chaired by David CASA and Jeroen LENAERS. This cooperation allows EUCDW to drive the implementation of a *Triple A Social Europe* in the European Parliament, in synergy with the EPP Group and the European Commission.

Key achievements in 2018 include the agreement reached in May 2018 on the strengthening of the **rules on posted workers** (rapporteur Elisabeth MORIN-CHARTIER, EPP), ensuring the same wage for the same work for more than 20 million workers temporarily posted abroad in construction, nursing, the meatpacking industry... Agreements were also reached in 2018 on the new **Accessibility Act**, to give people with disabilities easier access to products and services such as ATM's and rail services, and on legislation to **ban more than 25 cancer causing chemicals** (rapporteur Claude ROLIN, EPP) from the workplace, saving an estimated 100.000 lives. Finally, an agreement was reached on

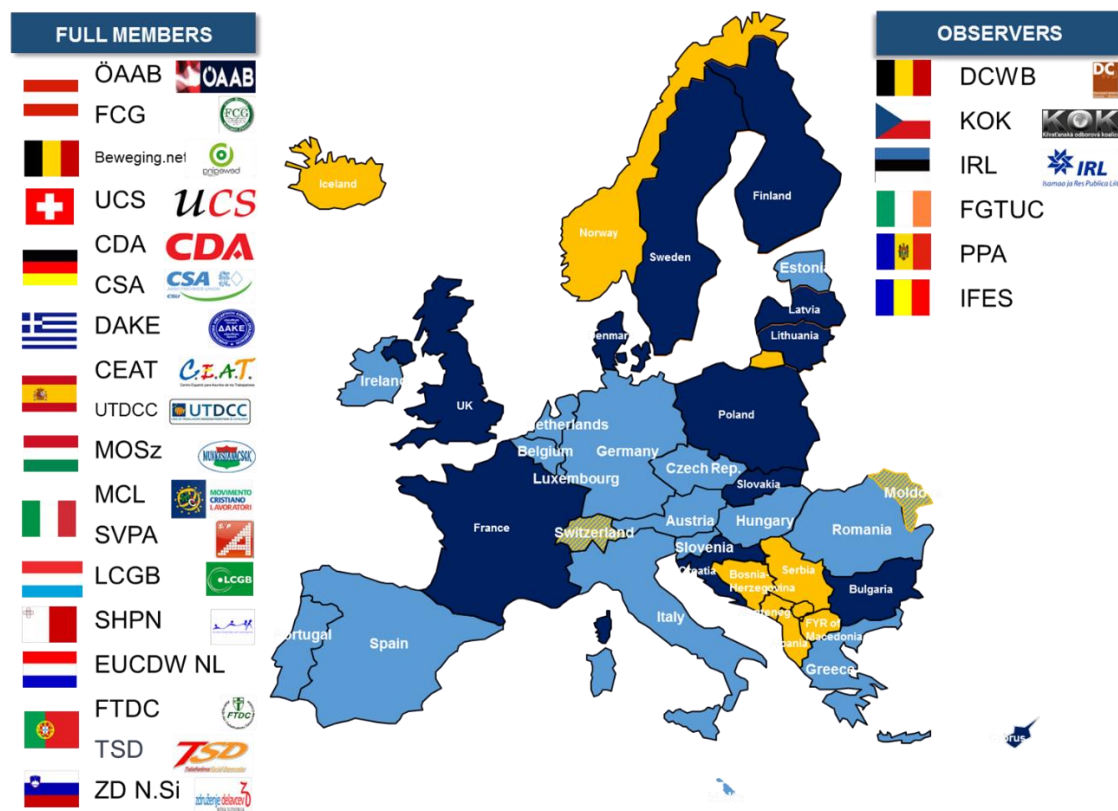
Work is ongoing on a package of new initiatives implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights on which Parliament reached its position in 2018 and negotiations between Parliament and Council are ongoing. Key files are the **Work-Life Balance Directive** (rapporteur David CASA, EPP) enabling men and women to reconcile work with caring obligations through European minimum standards on paternity leave, carer's leave and flexible work arrangements, stricter rules on **Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions** (rapporteur Dennis RADTKE, EPP) to give precarious workers clear and dignified working conditions, and the set up of a **European Labour Authority** (rapporteur Jeroen LENAERS, EPP) to organise cross-border labour inspections and support the effective enforcement of workers' rights in the internal market. Negotiations are also ongoing on the new proposal on **screening foreign investment** in strategic sectors to protect our critical infrastructure and technologies, put forward by the EPP Group. Agreement is likely to be reached on all key files in early 2019 and adopted before the European elections in 2019.

The EPP Workers' Group and the EUCDW were also actively involved in the discussions in the European Parliament's Transport Committee on an ambitious **Mobility Package**, extending equal wage for equal work to international road transport and assuring that drivers no longer have to spend weekend upon weekend in their cabin. The negotiations in the European Parliament are still ongoing.

The EP also put the proposal for the **Single Person Limited Liability Companies** - or SUP – and a **Services e-card** on hold after scrutiny in the Committee on Internal Market and Consumers in 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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