



Postal fight heads for Council of Ministers

UNI-Europa Post and Logistics is taking the fight to 'Save our Post' to the Council of Ministers following a disappointing vote by the Strasbourg Parliament. As hundreds of postal workers demonstrated in the rain outside, MEPs voted through by 512 votes to 156 a delaying amendment that will mean total liberalisation in 2011-2013. UNI wants clear provisions to safeguard the universal postal service and protect quality jobs and also met Commissioner McCreevy. Some governments have raised doubts over the future financing for a universal postal service and the issue will be debated under the Portuguese presidency. (john.pedersen@uniglobalunion.org)

Union networks for Asia Pacific Gaming

Union networks across the growing giants of the gaming industry in Asia Pacific were launched at the first ever workshop held by UNI in Macau - now the world's biggest gambling city. The aim is to develop closer working between Gaming affiliates and exchange information on organising and bargaining - and to build a dialogue with the companies who increasingly dominate the industry. Gaming is in rapid growth regionally and globally with countries from the UK to Singapore relaxing restrictions on casinos that are increasingly seen as part of leisure and tourism. (alke.boessiger@uniglobalunion.org)

Braving the Strasbourg rain to save Europe's postal service

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Bulletin

Top level talks on ABN Amro

UNI Finance has been active in meeting top companies involved in the takeover battle for ABN Amro bank that threatens thousands of job losses. On 21 June a UNI Finance group met Barclays Chief Executive John Varley and the UK based bank has since said that if its agreed takeover goes through it will respect worker rights and agreements and avoid compulsory redundancies "wherever possible". A meeting with the rival consortium - Royal Bank of Scotland, Fortis and Santander - is due in Edinburgh on 26 July. (oliver.roethig@uniglobalunion.org)

Justice Day bigger than ever

International Justice Day, held on 15 June, was a great success with activities in 43 cities and 17 countries. Rallies, marches, petitions and celebrations got across the message for workplace justice for cleaners and security guards. 300 cleaners in the DR Congo made TV with a call to "fight for health and well-being". In Belgium security guards stopped work, forcing flight cancellations and proving the essential role of property service workers. (internationaljusticeday.org)



Above: Members of the UNI Finance group after their meeting with the Barclays' Chief Executive

Below: Orly airport workers France demand justice for cleaners and security guards





Joint declaration on Europe's post

Regulators must ensure that Europe's fast changing postal sector continues to provide quality, affordable and sustainable postal services. In a joint declaration employers and unions in the EU's social dialogue re-affirmed support for universal postal services and agreed that any market opening moves must go hand in hand with socially acceptable employment conditions in a European sector that employs 1.8 million people. (john.pedersen@uniglobalunion.org)

UNI's John Pedersen and Dominique Bailly for Postal employers sign up to a joint declaration on services

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Ver.di win safeguards after Telekom ambush

After weeks of strikes at Deutsche Telekom, ver.di has won a comprehensive package to protect income levels and jobs for 50,000 workers as evidence emerges in the media of a deal between the German coalition government and private equity group Blackstone to force through big changes. Although the working week will be going up the deal gives protection against dismissals until the end of 2012 and against outsourcing until the end of 2010. "We have prevented wage dumping," says ver.di and the union points to 4,150 new jobs being created up to 2009 at good pay levels. Job losses will be dealt with by volunteers. (neil.anderson@uniglobalunion.org)

Postal strikes begin in UK

A second wave of strikes involving 140,000 UK postal workers has been called by the CWU with an appeal to Royal Mail boss Allan Leighton for more talks. It's part of a campaign to win decent pay and joint management of change under the impact of growing competition in a de-regulated postal market. The union has rejected a below inflation pay offer and is concerned at government backing for a new round of post office closures. (cwu.org.uk)

New union rights for Swedish temps

Unions in Sweden have won access rights to workers in the temporary agency sector. A new agreement gives new employees the right to a one-hour introduction to the union in working hours with no loss of earnings and increased local union activities. It covers several thousand people in a deal between LO-Sweden, HTF and the temporary employment agencies. (alke.boessiger@uniglobalunion.org)

Jennings challenges PE 'untouchables'

Private equity groups are no longer "untouchable" in the new economic territory they have created, UNI General Secretary Philip Jennings told influential US magazine Business Week. "We're trying to put private equity on a new path when it comes to the way they treat their employees - who number in the millions," he told readers. There's a growing public debate on private equity and moves in the United States and Europe to close tax loopholes that fuel the buyout boom and help make PE capitalists into billionaires. (philip.jennings@uniglobalunion.org)

Washington talks on security guards deal

Negotiations have begun in Washington DC, USA with the three biggest players in the commercial office security market there. Affiliate SEIU is talking to Securitas, Allied Barton and Admiral Security over a deal that would cover 1,200 workers, about 60% of DC guards. UNI and SEIU have agreements with Securitas and the union has a strategy of negotiating city-by-city deals to improve conditions and service quality. (christy.hoffman@uniglobalunion.org)

Australian unions in historic struggle

UNI's Communicators Forum in Singapore - attended by union journalists and webworkers from across the globe - was briefed on Australia's union battle for the rights of workers. They face an unprecedented attack from the conservative Howard Government with new laws to favour individual contracts, marginalise unions and take away many worker rights. Unions are fighting back and are campaigning in key marginal seats in the run up to the next federal elections. (Visit: actu.asn.au)

Vodacom talks in South Africa

In the face of a threatened strike - now ruled legal by the courts - Vodacom agreed to talks with affiliate CWU in South Africa. Vodacom workers have joined the CWU in large numbers and want to improve their working conditions through a collective agreement. Vodacom - part of Vodafone - is South Africa's largest mobile phone network with 30 million customers and more than 5 billion Rand profit. (neil.anderson@uniglobalunion.org)

Store occupation in Korea

In South Korea commerce workers in KCTU occupied E.Land stores to fight for 1,000 part time and contract workers who lost their jobs just before new laws that would have made their transition to full time jobs easier. The sackings went ahead in spite of a Labour Commission ruling of unfair dismissal. E.Land took over Carrefour Korea with employment guarantees. Union officials have already been threatened with arrest. UNI is calling for immediate re-instatement. (uni-asiapacific@uniglobalunion.org)



Fighting for their jobs - sitting in at an E-Land store in Korea

Hurdle cleared in Vodafone recognition claim

UK affiliate Connect has cleared the first hurdle in its formal claim for recognition for Vodafone regional operations staff across the North of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Central Arbitration Committee has agreed with Connect's definition of the bargaining unit. The next stage of the CAC decision is awaited - Connect has 64% membership in the bargaining unit. UK-based Vodafone does not currently recognise unions on its home base and the case has gone to the CAC because it refused to recognise Connect voluntarily. (neil.anderson@uniglobalunion.org)

UNI Malaysia help for migrant workers

UNI-Asia Pacific has opened 19 help desks across Malaysia to help migrant workers, many subject to exploitation and abuse. Mohammed Shafie and Raja Kumar from UNI's Malaysian Liaison Council told union communicators in Singapore that 12% of Malaysia's workforce is migrant workers, often unaware of their rights and open to abuse. Help desk volunteers also distribute information in train stations and markets. (uni-asiapacific@uniglobalunion.org)

Wal-Mart meetings in Argentina

Argentine commerce affiliate FAECYS recently organised two meetings at a Wal-Mart supermarket. Following discussions with 200 employees it was agreed to run a series of elections to choose five worker delegates. This will complete a network of worker reps in the 14 Wal-Mart stores in Argentina. (uni-americas@uniglobalunion.org)

UNITE commits to global union work

The world's newest super union UNITE brings together UK affiliates the T&G and Amicus. At its launch conference joint General Secretary Derek Simpson committed the new union to international activities and is exploring a transatlantic link-up with the US steelworkers. "UNITE has catapulted global union issues to the top of its domestic agenda," said UNI's Philip Jennings. (philip.jennings@uniglobalunion.org)

Responding to Private Equity

American unions are stepping up the pressure on private equity groups. SEIU has set up a campaign team with a dedicated website to analyse and influence private equity buy-outs. Union centre AFL-CIO joined the criticism of Blackstone's public offering. UNI's Philip Jennings met Blackstone Group at its New York head offices for talks that both sides considered "constructive". (philip.jennings@uniglobalunion.org)

UNI at Global Compact summit

UNI General Secretary Philip Jennings joined hundreds of business leaders at the UN Global Compact Leadership Summit in Geneva in early July. He urged companies to embed their CSR policies by signing global framework agreements and spotlighted the absence of private equity companies. It appears that "the private equity business world excludes corporate social responsibility consideration," he said. (philip.jennings@uniglobalunion.org)

Development projects in the Americas

UNI Development met UNI Americas Regional Staff on 24-25 June in Panama City to discuss ongoing projects and future plans. UNI-Americas currently has 25 projects backed by around \$1.8 million - including organising in multinationals like Quebecor, G4S and DHL. A new database is being evolved to speed information flows. (raul.requena@uniglobalunion.org)

Turning unions 1.0 into unions 2.0

55 union communicators from 30 countries met in Singapore in early June for intensive learning and sharing. Campaigns and organising were discussed from a communications' angle and best practices were evaluated. Workshops included practical software tips, brainstorming on unions in SecondLife, Blogs and the use of SMS in union communications. The next Forum is planned for Cape Town, South Africa next year. (christine.revkin@uniglobalunion.org)

uni
global union



UNI Deputy General Secretary
Philip Bowyer chooses the
successful UNI Bridge volunteer



UNI Bridge for Thailand and Caribbean

The UNI Communicators' Forum in Singapore chose Thailand and the Caribbean for this year's UNI Bridge project to help bring website development and maintenance to unions and members. Pascal Arnold from the Communication Workers' Union in Switzerland will help in the Caribbean and Dietmar Weiss of the Austrian union VIDA in Thailand. It's part of UNI's work to bridge the digital divide. (christine.revkin@uniglobalunion.org)

Security workers union for Nepal

Security workers from Group 4 Securicor and other security companies committed to create a national industrial union for security workers in Nepal. This was the outcome of a two-day organising course held in Pokhara and organised by NTUC regional office and UNIdoc Nepal with sponsorship from UNI Asia Pacific and SEKO and LO/TCO, Sweden. (carin.andersson@uniglobalunion.org)

Call for better innovation management in Europe

The Consultative Committee on Industrial Change has criticised the EU Commission for financing heavy research and development programmes, which have little resonance with member states. The committee says the "Commission should review its system of managing innovation and provide for more effective coordination of members states' efforts, enabling the multiplier effect of R&D resources to be felt more strongly". (gerd.rohde@uniglobalunion.org)

OECD looks at finance

On 18 June in Paris, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development held a roundtable to look at their Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the finance sector. The aim was to identify trends in corporate responsibility practices. The roundtable concluded there is a business case to include CSR into financial institutions' everyday management. No union was invited although John Evans from the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD spoke. (oliver.roethig@uniglobalunion.org)

All the world's our stage in Madrid

Resolutions are being distributed for the UNI MEI (UNI's media and entertainment global union) World General Assembly being held in Madrid 17-19 October with a slightly Shakespearean theme: "All the world's our stage". 23 resolutions have been tabled covering topics from freedom of association to the role of collecting societies and equitable remuneration for intellectual property rights. (jim.wilson@uniglobalunion.org)

Karin Retvig re-elected in Europa IBITS

Karin Retvig of HK Privat in Denmark, was re-elected IBITS President at the 2nd UNI-Europa IBITS Conference on 12-13 June in Nyon, Switzerland. Elected as Vice-Presidents were Koen Dries of LBC Belgium, Michael Jäkel of ver.di Germany and Peter Skyte of UNITE, UK. The Conference had the theme of "Breaking into knowledge services - the IBITS agenda for growth". (gerd.rohde@uniglobalunion.org)

Japan bank visitors to Singapore

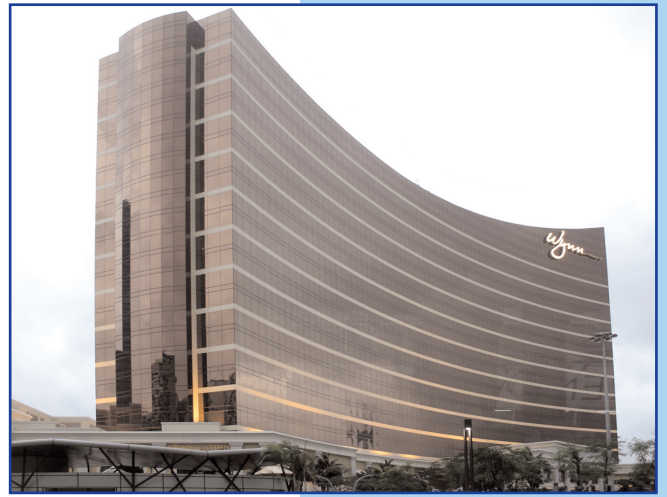
A delegation of trade union leaders representing three trust banks in Japan recently visited Singapore. They met finance unions and the trade union centre and visited UNI's regional office. UNI-Asia Pacific Finance president Osamu Umemoto coordinated the visit. (uni-asiapacific@uniglobalunion.org)

Ownership concerns at Tribune group

US affiliate the Teamsters took their concerns over media ownership to a public hearing of the Federal Communications Commission. The union is concerned at moves to transfer ownership of the Tribune group of newspapers and TV stations into what is being called an employee stock ownership plan. In fact the company will be controlled by just one man - real estate entrepreneur Sam Zell - and "employee owners" will have no say in governance or the operating company. (adriana.rosenzvaig@uniglobalunion.org)

Training initiative for Macau unions

UNI-Asia Pacific is offering training in the form of IT and language skills to unions in Macau. Macau has become the world's biggest gaming city and tens of thousands of new jobs are being created in giant casinos, hotels and resorts. A UNIdoc - a development and organising office - has been set up in nearby Hong Kong and will be able to offer assistance to Macau unions. (uni-asiapacific@uniglobalunion.org)



Gaming is the main industry in Macau - with US operators like Wynn and Sands as well as locally-owned casinos

Backing for a European agenda for culture

Union and employer groups in arts and entertainment have given backing to the development of a European agenda for culture in a globalising world, outlined by the European Commission. The key focus is on cultural diversity, creativity as a catalyst for developing a knowledge-driven economy and the promotion of culture in international relations. Later the social partners organised an event in Bulgaria to integrate Bulgarian unions and employers into the dialogue. (johannes.studinger@uniglobalunion.org)

Neide meets Women's Committee in Peru

UNI-Americas Women's president Neide Fonseca met the Women's Committee of Peru at the union office of Fetratel. Peruvian activists explained the radical changes in their labour market - including jobs without rights and young people having to accept part-time work - and the impact on organising women. Later Neide visited the National Union of Social Security Health Nurses and met Secretary General, Margarita Gutierrez. (monique.marti@uniglobalunion.org)

ICT and development

A meeting linked to the World Summit on the Information Society looked at the role of technology and innovation. UNCTAD emphasised benefits to developing countries through offshoring, made possible by ICT. The International Trade Centre said one of the most relevant technologies for poor countries is the mobile phone - a 10% increase in mobile availability leads to a 0.59% increase in GDP. The ILO said ICT increases competitiveness, brings decent jobs and can reduce poverty. (gerd.rohde@uniglobalunion.org)

Alcan union in Chile

A union has been set up in Alcan Packaging Enocap Chile with help from the National Graphical Confederation (CONAGRA) and UNI Graphical. The new union has 40 members and will be part of the union organisation in linked packaging multinationals in Chile. (adriana.rosenzvaig@uniglobalunion.org)

50 years of struggle in Taiwan

UNI sent its congratulations to Taiwan Telecom affiliate CTWU on their 50 years of struggle on behalf of workers in Taiwan. (Visit the CTWU 50th Anniversary website at: ctwu.org.tw/50year_ctwu/eindex.htm)

Solidarity helps G4S deal in Lithuania

The Lithuanian service workers trade union recently signed a five-year collective agreement with Group4Securicor. LPSDPS won this agreement with assistance from Danish union DFF, who provided support to the campaign over seven years. G4S employs almost 2,000 workers in Lithuania. (christy.hoffman@uniglobalunion.org)

Postal visit to Vietnam

UNI Post and Logistics president Rolf Büttner visited Vietnam during a trip to Asia Pacific to meet affiliates in the sector. Rolf opened a four-day training course on collective bargaining organised by UNI-Asia Pacific and attended by 27 union leaders from Vietnamese unions. He later visited the Vietnam National Union of Post and Telecom Workers, met FES and government representatives and visited Haiphong, Cat Ba Island and Hanoi's main sorting centre. (john.pedersen@uniglobalunion.org)



UNI-Africa office in Tunis

UNI is expanding its work in North Africa and the Middle East and UNI-Africa now has an office in Tunis with Sassi Nasrreddine. Our photo shows Sassi (centre) with UNI General Secretary Philip Jennings and Head of UNI Development Raul Requena



Senior HSBC staff with UNI-Asia Pacific in Hong Kong in June

Strengthening HSBC dialogue in Asia Pacific

Plans for a new meeting between top HSBC management in Asia Pacific and finance unions were discussed at a meeting in Hong Kong on 11 June. UNI-Asia Pacific wants to build on previous meetings between the regional management and banking unions with HSBC members from across the region - plus Unite from the UK (where the global bank is now based). Joint initiatives on training and re-training of staff to assist in employability and reduce turnover were discussed.

(uni-asiapacific@uniglobalunion.org)

Protest over Albanian privatisation

UNI is pressing the Albanian government over plans to privatise telecoms company, Albtelecom. UNI wants the government to help ensure that working conditions are protected and to respond to our affiliate SPPT. The union held a one strike in front of all Albtelecom premises on 29 May in protest at unanswered issues in the privatisation.

(neil.anderson@uniglobalunion.org)

ITUC deplores Gaza descent into violence

Global union the ITUC deplored the descent into violence in Gaza, following conflict between Hamas and Fatah that threatens separation between Gaza and the West Bank. "The Palestinian people have already been facing tremendous hardship and developments can only make matters worse," said ITUC General Secretary Guy Ryder. (ituc-csi.org)

Warning on labour de-regulation in Japan

A call to fight moves by the Japanese government to de-regulate labour came at the JSD convention in Tokyo from union President Takaaki Sakurada. He also urged delegates to also pay more attention to globalising capital flows - the first union conference on private equity in Japan was held in May. JSD plans a spring focus on wages. (uni.tokyo@uniglobalunion.org)

Security guard network in CEE

German affiliate ver.di is helping to develop social dialogue and trade union membership in Central and Eastern Europe. Ver.di has created, with the support of UNI-Europa, a network of private security trade unionists in Slovenia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland and Lithuania. Most of the unions are now UNI members. SEIU also takes part in the meetings within the UNI Property Services organising campaign. (christy.hoffman@uniglobalunion.org)

Labour rights spotlight still on Belarus

Belarus was one of those countries spotlighted at the International Labour Conference in Geneva in June for systematic violations of labour rights. It's the fifth time that Belarus has been singled out. The European Union has now excluded Belarus from its general system of preferences. Meanwhile independent unions in Belarus continue to fight against the virtual slavery that a total transfer of all workers of the republic on to fixed term labor contracts has brought about. A group of activists fighting the legislation were refused registration by the Central Elections Committee. (olga.vinogradova@uniglobalunion.org).

Jeff Lawrence for ACTU Secretary

The LHMU's National Secretary Jeff Lawrence is to be the next Secretary of Australian trade union centre the ACTU. The Howard government's new labour laws take away the respect that working families correctly believe is their right as Australians, Jeff told the ACTU conference. UNI has sent its congratulations to Jeff (actu.asn.au).

Asset stripping extends to holiday home

The five private equity funds that now own Danish telecom company TDC have started selling off summer houses rented out to staff at low prices for weekends and holidays. Asset stripping has reached a new (low) level as the houses were either donated or funded through a special account for holiday savings. The Danish Metal Workers Union is organising resistance, perhaps through the courts. (neil.anderson@uniglobalunion.org)



Gaming

Bringing together
Gaming workers from
across Asia Pacific
- UNI's first ever
workshop in Macau

Below: UNI Gaming's Alke Boessiger
and Ginny Coughlin from UNITE HERE, USA



Union at Metro Cash & Carry Kiev

The union of employees at Metro Cash & Carry in Kiev, Ukraine is now officially registered. The union fights for better working conditions and higher wages, as well as for compliance with labor laws. The union has been subjected to pressure from the store's administration. UNI is closely watching developments and stands ready to help.
(olga.vinogradova@uniglobalunion.org)

Euro MEI meets footballers

On 15 June, Euro MEI (the European arm of UNI's media and entertainment global union) met with FiFPro - Fédération Internationale des Footballeurs Professionnels. The aim was to discuss the RBT Sports Project that EURO MEI is carrying out currently together with EASE (European Association of Sports Employers) and to discuss future co-operation in the field of social dialogue. (marjolein.oorsprong@uniglobalunion.org and jim.wilson@uniglobalunion.org)

New insurance union in Nepal

About 100 National Life Insurance workers in Nepal have formed a union - UNLIE - with the help of UNI's development and organising centre (UNIdoc). Union president Saroj BC called on the company to respect labour standards and accept UNLIE as a partner for development.
(uni-asiapacific@uniglobalunion.org)

Gamblers observed on-line

Researchers at Harvard Medical School have come up with evidence that the majority of on-line gamblers are moderate and that only a limited number of punters gamble themselves into serious financial trouble. In an anonymous study the researchers observed the behaviour of 40,000 active users of on-line gambling site bwin. In the current global debate on the growth of gambling the problem of addiction is a recurring concern.
(alke.boessiger@uniglobalunion.org)

Active network for UNI-Finland women

Women and Power will be the theme of the seventh UNI-Finland women's conference being held next February. UNI-Finland women's network is a forum for all Finnish UNI affiliates and holds regular meetings and conferences. At the moment UNI-Finland women are working closely together for the coming collective bargaining round and to prepare the conference.
(monique.marti@uniglobalunion.org)

Globalisation and unions

UNI General Secretary Philip Jennings joined a debate at Cardiff University on how unions are responding to globalisation. UNI's response is organising, campaigning and signing global agreements with global companies. He joined BBC journalist Paul Mason who recently published a book "Live working or die fighting". (philip.jennings@uniglobalunion.org)





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