A Trade Union Perspective on the Future of Work

TUAC Roundtable, 30 October 2018, 14.00-16.00
Room CC18, OECD Conference Centre

The OECD Future of Work Initiative is expected to gain further traction and visibility in the coming months. In Spring 2019, the OECD will release its final report on Going Digital and enter into the second phase of the Horizontal Project, to be followed by the Employment Outlook 2019 and a report on public policy challenges regarding new non-standard forms of work (NSFW). All of these outcomes are expected to feature prominently at the annual OECD Ministerial Council Meeting 2019.

The OECD discussions on the Future of Work obviously matter to trade unions.

There are pronounced challenges to be tackled:
- Automation could lead to 14% of all jobs being displaced in the next 10-20 years
- Non standard employment relationships are proliferating on regulatory arbitrage
- Women still earn 14% less than men on OECD average.

... and opportunities to be reaped:
- Digitalisation might lead to more productivity and inclusive growth if gains are shared
- Workplaces can become safer and greener, and work-life balances better
- With the right governance and adequate financing people can profit from life long learning.

For TUAC, upcoming OECD recommendations should among others set the right parameters on regulatory coverage and principles, promote collective bargaining and social dialogue for a Just Transition, mainstream the gender dimension, and address the implications for “the Future of the Firm” and the promotion of long term business models.

To set the stage for upcoming discussions, the TUAC invites representatives of permanent delegations, the BIAC and the OECD Secretariat to exchange on the opportunities and challenges in the new world of work with its affiliates on the 30 October from 14.00-16.00 at the OECD Conference centre, room CC18.