

PRESS RELEASE

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Unions to G7: Your trade agenda needs workers' rights to succeed

Paris, 5 May 2026 – The Labour 7 (L7), representing trade unions across G7 countries and at European level, has warned that the objectives of the French presidency of "addressing global imbalances" cannot be achieved without putting labour rights and green jobs at the core of a new trade model. The L7 is calling on G7 Trade Ministers meeting in Paris on 6 May to adopt a G7 Action Plan on "Trade and Decent Jobs."

The [communiqué](#), issued after months marked by geopolitical shifts, trade disruptions and tariff wars, argues that these persistent trade imbalances reflect structural characteristics in both surplus and deficit economies, with workers paying the price on all sides.

The L7 calls on G7 members to require the effective implementation of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the core conventions of the ILO as a condition for market access, and to ensure the enforcement of responsible business conduct through other key instruments such as the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises for Responsible Business Conduct.

Veronica Nilsson, TUAC General Secretary, said: "When wages fail to keep pace with productivity in order to boost export competitiveness and profits, workers on all sides of the equation pay the price. The G7 must use this moment to put enforceable labour standards and collective bargaining at the heart of trade policy – not as an afterthought."

Luc Triangle, ITUC General Secretary, added: "Against the backdrop of escalating tariff wars, it is more urgent than ever to address the root causes of trade imbalances. G7 Trade Ministers must act: no market access or tariff liberalisation without the effective implementation of fundamental principles, democratic trade union rights at work and ILO core conventions."

The full communiqué is available [here](#).

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Notes to editors

The Labour 7 (L7) is the trade union engagement group to the G7, coordinated by the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). G7 Trade Ministers meet in Paris on 6 May 2026 under the French G7 Presidency.