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# UNI Europa Vision for the European Parliament 2019-2024

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## 1 Introduction

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Adopted by the Management Committee on 19 February 2019, UNI Europa's demands for the European parliamentary elections and the new term of office for the European Parliament and the European Commission are based on our position on the European Pillar of Social Rights.

UNI Europa also supports the ETUC programme for the 2019 European elections "A New Europe for Workers" (Annex 2.1).

## 2 Demands

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The elections of the European Parliament will take place from 23 to 26 May 2019 and will also lead to the appointment of a new European Commission. The European Union plays a key role in shaping the world of work.

During the next parliamentary term from 2019 to 2024, the EU urgently and profoundly needs to rectify the imbalance between EU level economic legislation and social and labour regulation at national level. We need a Europe that puts social rights first and fosters the improvement of living and working conditions for all citizens in the EU. We need to move away from an EU that continues to build a neo-liberal internal market with business models and new forms of work hollowing out existing labour standards and failing to react to the new/rising challenges of the labour market. We need to reverse the increase in inequality and the loss of trust in democracy.

To this end, the ambition for the EU must be that working life once again supports a positive and predictable future for everyone based on fairness, progress and social safety. We need a broad and large workforce which does not face a future of precarious working and living situation. We need good working conditions, good pay and a collective say at the workplace for all workers.

The services sectors provide the backbone of Europe's economy and labour market. It contributes an excess of 65% to both output and employment in the EU. EU activities must have a strong focus on the services industry to make Europe work for workers.

A central part for resurrecting the success of the EU and winning back the confidence of its citizens remains: strong trade unions and strong collective bargaining!

For the next five years, our key demand is a comprehensive and legally binding EU social action programme that promotes collective bargaining and shapes a digitalising services economy in the interest of service workers.

Central elements are:

1. A binding political undertaking by the EU to include a social progress protocol in the next substantive EU Treaty revision clarifying that the EU's four freedoms must be defined and are limited by the social objectives of the EU Treaty. They may not interfere with the autonomy of the social partners, freedom of association and collective bargaining. In the meantime, the EU must adopt a legal instrument to the same effect.
2. A "European Partnership to Promote Collective Bargaining", as initiated by the European trade union movement, bringing together the EU institutions, the member states and the European social partners. The aim is to strengthen and promote sectoral and national collective bargaining through EU policies and legislation as well as through financial support for capacity building of social partners.
3. Legislation on due diligence regarding human and labour rights between a company, their subsidiaries and their chain of subcontractors wherever operations are located. Workers' representatives and trade unions should be involved in the process at all levels.
4. Legal clarifications that the EU Commission must respect, support and facilitate the conclusion of EU-level social partner agreements and their transposition into law.
5. A substantive increase of EU investment programmes with a focus on a modern services infrastructure creating quality jobs and fostering a general pay rise in Europe. Social investments that serve to improve the situation of the most vulnerable groups such as women, youth, migrants and persons with disabilities must be given more weight.
6. A real EU Services Package with legislation that improves the internal market for services by fostering quality services while ensuring a level playing field for all market players guaranteeing labour rights, regardless of whether companies operate within the traditional economy or the e-economy.
7. Legislation that counteracts social dumping across borders based on the principles of equal pay, equal conditions and equal representation for equal work in the same place.
8. Legislation for a standard employment relationship 4.0 in the age of digitalisation that covers all kinds of workers, including self-employed workers and those with precarious contracts. Key elements are decent working conditions and decent pay as well as the right to collective bargaining and to be represented by a union. Working life must provide long-term stability, predictability and career prospects. Zero-hour contracts and other exploitative employment arrangements must be prohibited.
9. A legal and regulatory framework for updating skills and qualifications of all workers with social partners at the core of the process supported by other stakeholders, such as public authorities and training institutions.
10. A political commitment by the EU to involve social partners in its policy-making processes from the very start. The Commission should start consulting social partners, jointly or individually, before drafting a policy or legislative proposal.

UNI Europa's demands are rooted in its [Services Manifesto "Quality Jobs for Quality Services"](#) adopted in 2014. It sets out in more detail priority areas for an EU services policy that is based on commitments both to quality employment for quality services and to fair and consistent regulation.