



Portfolio of activities for the 'Health' (SAN) Trade Council

Who does the Council represent?

The 'Health' Trade Council is made up of representatives from various European trade unions whose members work in the field of health, notably doctors, nursing staff and laboratory and technical staff.

How does the Trade Council work?

Exchanging information on national reforms, sharing best practice and drafting position papers and demands form the crux of the work of the Trade Council 'Health Services'.

What are the goals and tasks of the Trade Council?

The health sector plays a key role in ensuring that all European citizens enjoy decent living conditions. In spite of this, the economic crisis and slashed budgets have taken their toll on access to healthcare and the quality of that healthcare in many EU member states. Indeed, in many countries, some staff have been laid off whilst others are migrating to other countries hoping to find better working conditions there. Some member states are therefore suffering from a 'brain drain'. What is more, hospitals have been either closed or privatised, thus considerably reducing the available political structures.

In addition to these national problems, European legislation, such as the working time directive, is having a direct impact on workers.

Convinced that it is crucial that we improve the working conditions of staff working in the field of healthcare, the Trade Council is lobbying for more investment in public health services and their staff.

The goal of the Trade Council is thus to inform its members in a timely fashion about current European reforms and national issues in order to arrive at a clear position and come up with concrete demands which can then be passed on at all levels.

Confédération Européenne des Syndicats Indépendants

European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions ★ Confederazione Europea dei Sindacati Indipendenti
Europäische Union unabhängiger Gewerkschaften ★ Confederación Europea de Sindicatos Independientes

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The Trade Council's key areas of competence are as follows:

- Medical staff
- Healthcare and social services
- Primary and hospital care
- Patient health and safety

The Trade Council has recently addressed the following questions:

- The working time directive
- Recruiting and holding on to staff in the field of healthcare
- Mobility for healthcare workers
- Wellbeing at work and an ageing workforce
- Access to healthcare
- Online healthcare
- Migration in the field of healthcare and the consequences for workers
- Managing pandemics such as Ebola
- eHealth/mHealth

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