



Portfolio of the Trade council “Security”

Who does the Trade Council represent?

The Trade council “Security” (SEC) gathers police officers, customs officers and other members from trade unions in Europe, which represent workers in the security and law enforcement fields. It works closely with other Trade Councils, which are linked to security.

How does the Trade Council operate?

The Trade Council is a forum where members share expertise, compare national reforms, exchange best practice and elaborate on European initiatives. This practice allows the Trade Council to take a communal stand within the area of security with the aim to further rights of workers.

Within the context of trade union activities, representatives of the Trade Council participate directly or indirectly in discussions and opinion-forming processes with and alongside European institutions (EU bodies, EU External Action Service) and various other networks. The aim is to create a communal voice and achieve a representative participation for the betterment of workers’ rights.

What tasks should the Trade Council perform?

Justice and home affairs measures put into place at the European level influence not only the European citizen’s welfare but also provide the ground work for stability within the Union. For this specific aim and for the overall security of European citizens, European cooperation between national police forces, custom officers and other law enforcement staff is crucial.

Internal security of the European Union poses a challenge that must be tackled by highly qualified and motivated public service employees that know their rights and enjoy satisfactory working conditions. Therefore the aim should be to advocate for and foster health and safety in the work place, decent pay and retirement allocations and establishing a good work and private life balance.

The recent refugee and migration crisis facing Europe challenges even more the national security levels if there is a lack of coordination between member states. Moreover, the

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question of finances has hit all sectors of the European Union and certainly the sector of security is vital in these times of heightened terrorist risks and threats posed by organised crime networks working inside and outside the external borders. This also means challenges to the working conditions and health and safety measures for workers at the forefront.

Information and coordination provided within the framework of the Trade Council facilitates advocacy work and the implementation of positions for the trade unions on a national level.

The Trade Council shall take and defend positions aiming at improving the working conditions of national police forces, custom officers and other law enforcement staff and defend these positions accordingly. In this context, the Trade Council may take political initiatives in agreement and concertation with the Secretary General of CESI.

The most important themes of the Trade Council Security (SEC) are:

- Fight against organised crime and terrorism
- Refugee and migration crisis
- Decent pay and retirement allocations
- Health and safety in the work place
- Challenges for law enforcement
- Requirements “Police of the future” (job description, structures, organization)
- Regulations of legitimate self-defence in Europe for police forces

The latest important issues or main focal points of the Trade Council Security (SEC) have been:

- Fight against terrorism and radicalisation
- Labour rights, including protective equipment
- Video surveillance of security forces
- Schengen space
- The European Agenda on Security
- The use of new technologies
- Working Time Directive
- Cyber-bullying against police officers
- Police and social networks (use for police investigation, intelligence gathering and management)

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