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## Portfolio of the Trade council “Local and regional administrations”

### *Who does the Trade council represent?*

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The Trade council “Local and regional administrations” is composed of representatives from European trade unions whose members are employed exclusively or mainly in municipalities and regional bodies.

### *How does the Trade council operate?*

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The Trade council operates in accordance with the structures of the overall organisation, a solid body that has been built over many years.

Information about national reforms and the individual steps followed to implement them, comparisons of framework conditions for employees in public services in the individual states, positions vis-à-vis EU initiatives, as well as the expression of demands are the core tasks performed in the Trade council, in terms of its regulatory and specialised work.

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, Council of Europe) and networks (CEMR). The main aim in this context is to achieve a representative participation in the sectoral social dialogue.

### *What tasks should the Trade council perform?*

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The challenges faced by municipalities and regions are constantly increasing. On the one hand, this is due to the large gap between the tasks at hand and the lack of necessary financial resources, and especially in terms of the personnel required. This fact is made worse by the constant appearance of new, temporary crises (the economic and financial crisis, refugee crisis, etc.), to which the political level often reacts too late. In addition to this, the municipalities are not given the necessary financial means to manage the crises directly. Consequently, the pressure on colleagues who work in these areas is tremendous.

The Trade council focuses mainly on the employees in municipalities and regions, but also on the employees of companies contracted to perform public tasks in these fields.

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#### **Confédération Européenne des Syndicats Indépendants**

European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions ★ Confederazione Europea dei Sindacati Indipendenti  
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In addition to the problem of personnel shortages, EU regulations or directives have a direct impact on national frameworks (e.g. working time regulations, salary structures, etc.) and they do not always achieve the targeted results.

Timely information and coordination in the Trade council make the implementation of positions for the trade unions on a national level easier.

The tasks and duties of the Trade council target government-run and private-sector bodies and their employees, in management, services, services of “public interest” and utilities.

**The most important competences of the Trade council are:**

- Economic and financial management
- Territorial planning and construction
- Social administration and youth welfare
- Education, especially early childhood education
- Health and social services, emergency services, fire brigade
- Planning, implementation and maintenance of infrastructures
- Water and power supply
- Sewerage and waste management
- Public transport
- Set-up and management of leisure centres

**The latest important issues or main focal points of the Trade council have been:**

- The Working Time Directive
- The Services Directive
- The introduction of a financial transaction tax
- The plans to eliminate the civil servant status in some states
- The privatisation of public services
- Violence against employees
- Migration and demographic change – Consequences

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