

# Enforcing workers' rights in Europe through strategic litigation

**20 October 2023 (10:00 – 17:30)**

**Interpretation: English, French, Italian, German, Spanish**

*In-person only, House of Labour, Frankfurt am Main*

*Eschersheimer Landstraße 155/157*

This event will explore the interpretative and creative potential of strategic litigation to reinforce the position of (vulnerable) workers in the EU. Trade unionists, lawyers and labour law scholars will present and discuss practical examples of successful proceedings before the European Court of Justice and national labour courts in various European countries.

Several trends are currently reshaping the world of work and calling into question the efficacy of existing labour law instruments in pursuing their protective and emancipatory function vis-à-vis workers. Digital technology, the platformisation of labour, fissuring tendencies and an increasing reliance on service contracts, as well as the growing share of migrant and vulnerable workers in the EU, all have concrete implications for employment rights, the quality of working conditions and the reliability of corporate actors. Is the current EU labour law *acquis* sufficiently effective at allocating rights and obligations to the important parties of labour relations? And how can strategic litigation support the adaptation of the current legal framework to be more worker-centric?

## PROGRAMME

9.30 – 10.00

Registration

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10.00 – 11.15

**Panel 1: Strategic litigation to advance workers' rights: overarching remarks**

- **Isabelle Schömann** (ETUC Deputy General Secretary): *The importance of strategic litigation for trade unions*
- **Klaus Lörcher** (former legal advisor to the ETUC): *Strategic litigation in the framework of effective enforcement. New directives, new approaches?*
- **Lord John Hendy KC** (Barrister, London): *The role of a trade union-oriented attorney in the pursuit of strategic litigation*

Chair: **Thomas Schmidt** (Labour lawyer, ELDH Co-Secretary-General)

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11.15 – 12.45

**Panel 2: Platform work and digital technology**

- **Christina Hiessl** (BOFZAP Professor of Labour Law, KU Leuven): *Platform work & algorithmic management: strategic litigation in 16 European countries*
- **Mariagrazia Lamannis** (Università degli Studi Magna Grecia, Catanzaro): *Strategic litigation and collective bargaining in the platform economy: what interaction?*
- **Carlo De Marchis** (Labour lawyer, Rome): *The Italian experience*
- **Stéphane Teyssier** (Labour lawyer, Lyon): *The French experience*
- Q&A, discussion

Chair: **Silvia Rainone** (Senior researcher, ETUI)

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12.45 – 13.45

Lunch break

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13.45 – 15.00

**Panel 3: Working time**

- **Armando-Garcia Lopez** (Coordinator of legal services for the Federation of Workers' Commissions Services, CCOO-Servicios, and lawyer, Madrid)
- **Johanna Wenckebach** (Professor, Scientific Director of the Hugo Sinzheimer Institute for Labour Law HIS – Hans-Böckler Foundation)
- **Fatma Arda Bicz / Ceren Uysal** (Lawyers, Istanbul)
- Q&A, discussion

Chair: **Rüdiger Helm** (Labour lawyer, Munich)

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15.00 – 15.30

*Coffee break*

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15.30 – 17.00

**Panel 4: Migrant, temporary and vulnerable workers**

- **Dimitrios Vassiliou** (Lawyer, Athens)
- **Ernesto Klengel** (Researcher, Hugo Sinzheimer Institute for Labour Law HIS - Hans-Böckler Foundation)
- **Zane Rasnaca** (Senior researcher, ETUI)
- **Angelika Kapeller** (Head of the Trade Union Centre for Revision and European Law, DGB)
- Q&A, discussion

Chair: **Dominique John** (Fair Mobility, Berlin)

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17.00 - 17.30

**Final discussion and closing remarks**

Chair: **Michael Schubert** (Labour lawyer, Freiburg)

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*Drinks*

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Please note that on **21 October 2023, 10.00 – 12.30**, the **European Lawyers for Workers Network** will be holding its annual meeting in the same venue. Conference participants are welcome to also take part in this meeting.

**Conference organisers:**

- European Lawyers for Workers Network (ELW)
- European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)
- European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights (ELDH)
- Vereinigung Demokratischer Juristinnen und Juristen e.V. (VDJ)

**Supported by:**

- Hugo Sinzheimer Institut für Arbeitsrecht (HSI) of the Hans-Böckler Foundation (HBS)
- Vereinte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft (ver.di)

**ELW**

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for Democracy & Human Rights

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european trade union institute



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