

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

Save the date

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

Several trends are in fact reshaping the world of work, and this calls 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 as well the increasingly heavier reliance on service contracts, and the growing share of migrant and other vulnerable workers have concrete implications for employment rights, the quality of working conditions and the reliability of corporate actors. Is the current EU labour law acquis sufficient in allocating rights and obligations to the parties of the labour relations, and in which way can strategic litigation support the adaptation of the current legal framework towards a more workers-centric dimension?

PROGRAMME

9.30 – 10.00	Registration and coffee, tea, drinks
10.00 – 11:15	<p>Thomas Schmidt (Labour Lawyer, ELDH Co-Secretary-General, Düsseldorf): Welcome</p> <p>Panel 1: Strategic litigation to advance workers rights: overarching remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Isabelle Schoemann (ETUC Deputy General Secretary, Brussels): Importance of strategic litigation for trade unions• Klaus Loercher (Former legal advisor to the ETUC, Frankfurt/M.): 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
11.15 – 12.45	<p>Panel 2: Platform work and digital technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christina Hiessl (BOFZAP Professor of Labour Law, KU Leuven)• Mariagrazia Lamannis (Università degli Studi Magna Graecia, Catanzaro)• Carlo De Marchis (Labour Lawyer, Rome)• Stephane Teyssier (Labour Lawyer, Lyon)• Q&A, discussion <p>Chair: Silvia Rainone (Senior researcher, ETUI, Brussels)</p>
12.45 – 13.45	Lunch break in the conference restaurant

<p>13.45 – 15.00</p>	<p>Panel 3: Working time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armando-Garcia Lopez (Coordinator of legal services for the Federation of Workers' Commissions Services CCOO-Servicios, lawyer, Madrid) • Johanna Wenckebach (Professor, Scientific Director of the Hugo Sinzheimer Institute for Labour and Social Law (HSI) of the Hans-Böckler Foundation, Frankfurt) • Fatma Arda Bicz, presented by Ceren Uysal (Lawyers, Istanbul) • Q&A, discussion <p>Chair: Rüdiger Helm (Labour Lawyer, Munich)</p>
<p><i>15.00 – 15.30</i></p>	<p><i>coffee, tea, drinks</i></p>
<p>15.30 – 17.00</p>	<p>Panel 4: Migrant, temporary and vulnerable workers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dimitrios Vassiliou (Lawyer, Athens) • Ernesto Klengel (Hugo Sinzheimer Institute for Labour and Social Law (HSI) of the Hans-Böckler Foundation, Frankfurt) • Zane Rasnaca (Senior researcher, ETUI, Brussels) • Angelika Kapeller (Head of the Trade Union Centre for Revision and European Law, DGB Rechtsschutz GmbH, Kassel) • Q&A, discussion <p>Chair: tbc</p>
<p>17.00 - 17.30</p>	<p>Final discussion and closing remarks Moderation: Michael Schubert (Labour Lawyer, Freiburg)</p>
	<p><i>coffee, tea and drinks</i></p>

Registration:

Please register on the website of the ETUI <https://www.etui.org/events/enforcing-workers-rights-europe-through-strategic-litigation> . Participation in the conference is only possible after prior registration and transfer of the participation fee (students and PhD candidates free)

Please [register online](#) on the website of the ETUI. Participation

Registration fee:

Registration fee for all participants: 140,- € to be paid to the European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights – ELDH/EJDM www.eldh.eu (students and PhD candidates free). After submitting this registration form you will receive a provisional confirmation. Hereafter you will receive an email by the ELDH with the details for the payment of the registration fee. Only after the payment of the registration fee you will receive the final confirmation for your participation at the conference. The fee includes participation at the conference, access to all available documents (speeches etc.), coffee, tea and cold drinks during the breaks and lunch. The fee has to be paid by transfer to the indicated bank account. Payment by credit cards is not possible.

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Saturday, 21 October 2023, 10h00 – 12h30 CET

The annual ELW members meeting takes place the day after the conference on Saturday, 21 October 2023, 10h00 – 12h30 CET in the same venue. All participants at the conference are welcome.

Topics will be among others

- Evaluation of the conference,
- further tasks of ELW (newsletter, next conference..)
- Coordination Committee Appointment

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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 for Labour and Social Law (HSI) of the Hans-Böckler Foundation
- Vereinte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft (ver.di)



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