



## Fight for decent work

### Brazilians constructors to be yellow-carded

Considering the 12 cities that were picked to host the Soccer World Cup 2014, five of them already had their work paralyzed due to strike movements, in 2011 only. To UGT, "the main national organ connected to unions of heavy industry", according to the newspaper O Globo, lack of sensibility of constructors concerning the working conditions might lead to a general strike of the sector until the beginning of 2012.

The **president of UGT** guarantees that the interest of the trade union central is far from delaying the schedule and jeopardizing the main event that Brazil is going to host for a long time. But **Ricardo Patah** believes that, as long as contractors don't raise an awareness regarding the importance of what's coming up, the situation tends to be on a tightrope.



Over the last days, workmen from Pernambuco - for the second time - and from Brasilia refused to work, along with workers from Cuiabá, Rio de Janeiro (reference of the success achieved by unionists, their strike lasted 24 days) and Belo Horizonte, whose consortiums had to arrange new agreements. "The movement that took place at the Maracana stadium, in particular, had an impact on all the Brazilian states and became a reference. And workers know that they are living a unique moment in history. It's time they recovered the losses from the past concerning wages and treatment and get leveled with other sectors. This has been widely spoken", Patah declared in an interview to the newspaper O Globo.

"Brazil is on the news at the moment, obviously that the approach should be changed. Our orientation is being balanced in negotiations, especially because the World Cup goes beyond the games. There will be no radicalization if there is an effective demonstration of dialogue, that must be always open. But there might be a bigger combined paralyzation, though we seriously hope otherwise", Patah said in his interview.

#### A group of the government to avoid consequences

The federal government chose a specific group to supervise and deal with this issue until 2014.

With the advances in the repair work of stadiums, the expectation is that most cities will triple the number of employees, due to a demand of internal and external structuring, what might be even harder to control. Most of the work requires an average of 800 people per year, but statistics predict that this number might reach 2000 people by the second semester of 2012. It is also known that the qualified workforce in Brazil is relatively scarce.

Workers from Pernambuco (in the picture) and from the Federal District, triumphant, went back to work this week.

### G20 is back

G20 is once again giving priority to the real economy. G20 is requesting a global strategy of growth and employment through a document that was approved in a meeting that took place in Cannes, France.

Directors from **UGT**, led by the national **president Ricardo Patah**, participated in a meeting of the General Council of the **International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)**, that took place in Brussels, Belgium, and defined the proposals that the international trade union movement would take to the leaders of the G20.

The international trade union movement says that "the G20 is back"

Leaders once again are committed to the demands of their own citizens. Progress was achieved after the meeting of union delegations with 14 chiefs of government and with people that are in charge of the main multilateral organs, including ONU, ILO, World Bank, OECD, WTO and IMF.



Ricardo Patah, during the conference; Nair Goulart, vice-president of ITUC, is by his side.

The government leaders understood that the world is dealing with a deep unemployment crisis. "The tough reality we're dealing with is that the austerity measures did not work, and the social discomfort is growing", said **Sharan Burrow**, **general secretary of ITUC**.

The memorandum of G20 requests a global strategy of growth and employment, making a commitment to create a workgroup on employment before the G20 Leaders Summit, that will be held in Mexico.

The workgroup will share experiences and will answer to the challenges involving unemployment, that especially fall upon the youth.

G20 also gave its approval to the principle of a universal social protection floor, that ILO should translate into an international tool to fight against insecurity and poverty, that 80% of people suffer from around the world.

"We had a meeting today with ministers of Employment from France and Mexico regarding the G20 Work Group. They promised to work in collaboration with business sectors and unions from day one", said **Sharan Burrow**. Unions saluted the commitment that was renewed with the financial regulation, although they stated that unless it is done in a fast and serious way, the financial sector will continue to absorb all the wealth at the cost of the real economy.

The adoption of a tax on financial transactions (TTF) might help ending both speculative activities and could provide the amount of resources that are necessary to finance numerous public objectives.

### Meeting at ITUC defined union proposals

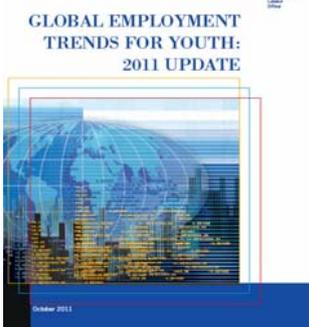
Among the issues that were discussed, there was the proposal of including the job creation into the center of global political discussions as a way to face the financial economic crisis that fell upon Europe, was strengthened among representatives from the participant countries and was widely supported by UGT. This was the proposal that was incorporated to the G20 declaration.

The proposals of stimulation to reach the Social Protection Floor (SPF), in all countries with global funds and support to a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) were also considered.

According to Laerte Teixeira, vice-president of UGT, who also participated in the meeting, the Council also approved a project that has the goal of increasing the actions that are connected to decent work, despite supporting the union development in the Middle East and in Northern Africa.

### ILO Report warns about unemployment among young people

An update of the **Global Employment Trends for Youth, 2011**. This is the title of the report that was published by the International Labour Organization (ILO), and it draws the attention to a "generation that is traumatized by a world crisis of youth employment".



According to the report, the years of 2008 and 2009 had a raise of 4,5 million unemployed young people all over the world. The ILO report warns of an issue that is not new: the amount of unemployed young people. The report reveals that in the Middle East and in Northern Africa, for example, one out of four young people is unemployed.

Even though there was a reduction in the absolute number of young unemployed people - it decreased from 75,8 million in 2009 to 75,1 million in 2010 -, the amount is still high. The expectations, according to ILO, is that this number would decrease to 74,6 million by the end of 2011.

It's not a coincidence that the young people are one of the groups that are most affected by the crisis. They find it harder to get a job than adults and, when they do, they are usually temp or part time jobs.

In order to change these figures, ILO proposes a series of actions that have the goal of promoting employment among the youth, such as: the development of a growth strategy and creation of jobs for the youth; improvement in the quality of their jobs; investment on education; and promotion of financial and macroeconomic policies that withdraw obstacles to the economic recovery. *(Karol Assunção – Adital)*

#### Half of the young people are not able to get a formal job

The **Ministry of Labor and Employment** and the **Inter-union Department of Statistics and Social-Economic Studies (Dieese)** released the "**Yearbook on the Public System of Employment, Labour and Income 2010/2011**". The survey is divided into six topics: job market, intermediation of the workforce, unemployment checks, professional qualification, solidary economy and youth. Concerning the young people, the yearbook reveals that the unemployment rate is really high for those that are under 20.

**Clemente Ganz Lúcio**, technical director of Dieese, said that, generally, data show that there is a strong creation of formal jobs and, consequently, a reduction in unemployment and informality. He emphasized the growth in the coop sector, that already accounts for more than 25 thousand in Brazil, which stimulates even more the offer of job positions.

As for the problems, the director of Dieese points out as the most representative ones: the higher unemployment among women, African-American and young people. "There's still a long way for women, African-American and young people to achieve a more equalitarian participation in their occupation and working conditions, so that everyone might have access to an adequate social protection system", he said.

According to data from the yearbook, unemployment among young people from 18 to 20 years old reaches 50%. Among women, the rate is 11,1% (compared to 6,2% among men). And among African-American people, 10% (compared to 7,3% of the white population and 9,1% of mulattoes). All the comparisons are based on data from 2009.

### Bakers of Sao Paulo are on strike

Through an extraordinary assembly that took place on October 28, the Union of Bakers of Sao Paulo, affiliated with UGT, unanimously approved a strike of the class. "Due to an intransigency of the employers sector, that, during the negotiations rounds refused to present a decent proposal, there wasn't any other option left to the workers but to start a strike", stated the president of the union, Chiquinho Pereira.



Among the main requests, there are: a real raise in their wages; reposition of the inflation index of that period; free medical insurance to all workers; raise in the values of the participation in profits and results; reduction of the working shifts down to 40 weekly hours, without a reduction in salaries; basic needs assistance; and free food; A new negotiation round is expected to happen on November 01. (*Redação da UGT 28.10.2011*)

### Souther Cone: Youth Committee on campaign

The Youth Committee of the Coordinator of the Central Trade Union of the Southern Cone (CCSCS) started a regional campaign to draw attention and to reinforce the fight for education, decent work and housing.

The campaign, marked by the use of social networks, will act in the core of the union movement, the public opinion, and institutional spaces in which trade union centrals participate, as well as in the workplace.

"We request a Social-labour Platform of the Americas and defend that the articulation of universal social protection policies is essential, as well as job creation policies, avoiding the crystallization of a society divided into those that are employed and those that receive assistance", [says the document \(pdf, portuguese\)](#).

### Radiography of slave work in Brazil

#### Perfil dos Principais Atores Envolvidos no Trabalho Escravo Rural no Brasil

(Profile of the main actors involved in the rural slave work in Brazil) is the title of a new report presented by the office of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Through interviews with workers, human traffickers and employers, the research tries and draws a profile of these actors in order to help building public policies to fight against any work that is similar to slave work.



Interviews with workers and human traffickers took place from October 2006 to July 2007, in the States of Para, Mato Grosso, Bahia and Goiás. The study emphasizes that it didn't use representative statistics sources, and, therefore, it cannot make generalizations. However, it reminds that the results revealed important features on the actors involved with slave work in Brazil.

Besides showing a profile of the people involved in such practice, the report also analyses the policies to prevent this kind of crime in Brazil. According to the research, despite accomplishing some advances, Brazil still needs to walk a long way in order to obtain the eradication of slave work.



**"The General Union of Workers (UGT) reaffirms its historic commitments to the working class, while seeking to expand its methods of action, with ethics, courage and the certainty that Brazil can be better and more just. " Ricardo Patah – UGT's President**

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**GWU Communications Secretary: Marcos Afonso de Oliveira**