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**UNICE REGRETS END OF NEGOTIATIONS ON TEMPORARY AGENCY
WORK**

UNICE has learnt that, at a meeting of its management committee, ETUC has confirmed its decision to bring an end to the negotiations on temporary agency work.

“The lack of flexibility on the part of ETUC seems to indicate that the trade unions regard temporary agency work as a threat. Yet, this form of work responds to the needs of companies and workers alike. Temporary work currently represents around 1.5% of employment in Europe. It makes an appreciable contribution to the efforts deployed by the Lisbon European Council to increase employment rates. More than half of temporary agency workers seeking a permanent position find one while on a mission or soon afterwards” explained President Jacobs.

“European employers have offered temporary agency workers legal protection against discrimination. Our disagreement relates to how a comparable worker is defined. The comparison can be made either with a worker in the user company or with a worker in the same temporary work agency. ETUC’s insistence that the comparable worker in the user company should be the first point of reference is unjustified. In some countries, temporary workers have an indefinite work contract with the agency and are paid by their employers even in the absence of a mission in a user company. It would be totally unjustified to compare them with a worker in the user company. Despite all our efforts to try to find a compromise solution, ETUC has proved intransigent on this point, thereby rendering an agreement impossible”, President Jacobs continued.

“After three successful rounds of negotiations on parental leave, part-time work and fixed-term work, we regret that it has not been possible to conclude a fourth agreement on temporary agency work but we would like to stress that this in no way places a question mark over UNICE’s commitment to the European social dialogue” President Jacobs concluded.

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