

Union Syndicale Fédérale

16th Congress
6 - 9 May 2023



Adopted by the FC 4 February 2023

Proposal for a session on
“Ecological transition and the future of work: impact, challenges, opportunities, solutions”

This session will explore the ecological and climate crisis impact work and how we could support the ecological transition about ways of working and workplaces. The ecological and climate crisis is probably the biggest challenge faced by the humankind in history. It requires our societies to show their capacity to change and adapt in all respects, from how we move, what we eat, where we live, and the way we work.

Unions are not indifferent in the face of such a huge societal threat. They can contribute to identify and foster the most viable solutions to make sure that in the ecological transition, jobs and the quality of work, as well as workers’ wellbeing, are protected and improved.

The digital transition towards paperless workflow, the introduction of flexible and smart working arrangement and the modernisation of office buildings are intertwined, and with the potential of improving our environmental impact. However, they can also have negative externalities both for the environment and the workers’ wellbeing. The environmental dimension should therefore always be taken into account in the definition and implementation of relevant policies, along with the protection of working conditions and work itself.

The goal of this session is to discuss about the crucial role of environmental sustainability for the future of work, outlining main challenges, opportunities, possible solutions and best practices, and to raise awareness on the role of Unions in supporting and defining the path for change.

- ✓ Format: experts panel + Q&A session ?
- ✓ Duration: half a day?
- ✓ Output: memo, which could be the basis for a paper to be adopted at a later stage?