

## Fighting for a Better Europe for Workers

### EFFAT Mobilisation in View of the EU Elections 2024 (Draft Resolution)

#### The Importance of the Next EU Elections

The 2024 elections will be a crucial event for the future of workers and citizens in the European Union. Their outcome will decide whether the EU will pursue an ambitious and progressive social agenda, or whether it will choose the path of nationalism, extremism, and austerity with major risks for the hold of democracy, the planet and social rights.

Ahead of the next EU Elections, and amidst a cost-of-living crisis, a lot is at stake for workers in the EFFAT sectors:

- **'Greedflation'** is fuelling a social justice emergency: corporate profits rise while working people purchasing power sinks.
- The consequences of geopolitical tension, conflicts, poverty and food speculation are triggering an increase in **migration flows**, for which Europe seems incapable of proposing long term solutions based on inclusiveness and solidarity.
- The **climate crisis** has heavily impacted our continent: droughts, heat waves and floodings have shaken job security along with the health and safety of millions of workers.

Against this backdrop, we need to ensure that the outcome of the EU elections deliver a European Parliament and a European Commission committed to the interest of working people.

Electoral polls are concerning for upcoming elections. If projections hold, securing improvements for workers in the European Parliament may become difficult. Meanwhile, right-wing parties are gaining power in government coalitions. As governments appoint Commissioners, there may be few sympathetic to our trade union agenda in the next College of Commissioners. The rise of the far-right threatens European workers and our trade union values.

It's crucial for unions to support political groups that align with our agenda and commit to promoting social rights, strengthening collective bargaining, pursuing a just transition, and fighting against unequal treatment and precarious employment.

This document sets out the main actions of the EFFAT mobilization in view of the 2024 European elections and defines our political priorities as well as our strategy ahead of this crucial event for workers and citizens in Europe.

## EFFAT 5 Demands for a Better Europe for Workers

EFFAT has identified five top priorities for the next EU legislative term.

### 1 **Tackling Abusive Subcontracting and Regulating Labour Intermediation:**

EFFAT demands an EU Directive on labour intermediaries and fair working conditions across subcontracting chains (see detailed proposal [here](#)). Such Directive should replace the current fragmented approach to sub-contracting and establish a general EU system of joint and several full chain liability covering both cross-border and domestic situations. It should also ban subcontracting for companies' core activities and limit it to maximum two steps in the chain. The initiative should address the shortcomings of the Temporary Agency Work Directive and regulate the role of all labour intermediaries with clear obligations on the provision of information to workers and the prohibition to charge on them any fees. Finally, the directive should aim at increasing the frequency and bolstering the effectiveness of labour inspections.

### 2 **Establishing a Framework of Protection for Domestic Workers in Europe:**

Domestic work continues to be among the most undervalued, under-compensated, and hyper-vulnerable jobs in Europe. Domestic workers play a key role in ensuring that we can enjoy an improved work-life balance. Yet, while our houses and beloved ones are well taken care of, their working conditions are often dire. Domestic workers represent almost 5% of EU-27 total employment and often lack recognition, value, and protection. This is why EFFAT strongly demands that the EU takes up on its responsibility and adopt clear initiatives to protect this vulnerable group of workers. EFFAT is promoting three main demands (see details [here](#)):

- Including domestic workers in the scope of the Framework Directive on Health and Safety and its individual directives.
- Pushing Member States to ratify and implement ILO C189 on domestic workers through a specific Council Recommendation.
- Promoting EU and national social dialogue in the Personal Household Services (PHS) sector.

### 3 **Ensuring a Just Transition that Delivers for Working People in our Sectors:**

Climate change is a direct threat to job security and workers' health and safety, especially in our sectors that depend on meteorological conditions. Reverting this dangerous trend is vital for the planet, for future generations as well as for protecting jobs and workers' rights. Yet, there cannot be any green transition to more sustainable agriculture, food processing and hospitality without social considerations and the involvement of trade unions. EFFAT wants the green transition to be an opportunity for working people in our sectors rather than an additional threat. An opportunity to create more and better jobs with stable employment, fair pay and advanced working conditions. To ensure that, EFFAT advocates for more social considerations in EU environmental policies and legislation and ambitious adaptation strategies including an EU binding initiative on maximum working temperatures and extreme weather events (see the details of our proposals [here](#)).

### 4 **Advocating for Stronger Social Elements in the Next CAP Reform:**

The last Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reform has marked a [crucial success](#) for farm workers in Europe. The establishment of social conditionality as well as other social advancements can be a potential game changer in raising labour standards in European agriculture. However, the CAP is still far from being a fair and balanced policy. It still mainly delivers for big landowners at the detriment of small farmers and agricultural workers. EFFAT believes the social dimension of CAP should be further strengthened in occasion of the next CAP reform from 2027. The scope of social conditionality must be enlarged with the inclusion of new EU Directives and regulations. Controls on working conditions must be made more frequent and the sanctions imposed on

employers violating workers' rights must be truly effective, dissuasive and proportionate as requested by the CAP regulations. Social conditionality should apply both as an ex ante and ex post mechanism. Moreover, specific measures need to be included in order to ensure that CAP payments take also into consideration the level and the quality of employment existing in each farm. A calculation based mainly on the quantity of eligible hectares is not sufficient.

## 5 **Fighting shareholder value maximisation and achieving a truly sustainable food system:**

EFFAT is still waiting for the launch of the Sustainable Food System initiative. Our demands are clear (see details [here](#)). A sustainable food system has to feed the world with healthy food ensuring food security and food affordability in an environmentally and socially sustainable way. A sustainable food system can only exist if long standing systemic issues affecting the most vulnerable actors across the food chain are tackled. This includes a serious fight against the process of concentration occurring at each level of the food chain as well as an EU Trade policy that takes on board the specificities of the agro-food sector. The ratification of the core ILO Conventions and the application of similar environmental standards must be considered as a precondition to engage in negotiations with other partners. Moreover, EFFAT recalls that there cannot be any transition to sustainable food systems without some clear boundaries to short-termism and shareholder value maximisation. Short termism push companies to compete hard one another in a world with limited resources. This is detrimental for people and the planet. The EU should do more to promote long term shareholders engagement. This can be done with a number of actions including: social conditionalities linked to public fundings as well as the promotion of "loyalty shares," bans on share buybacks and extraordinary dividend payments and by linking CEO payments and other management compensation packages to long term sustainable objectives (e.g. reducing greenhouse emissions or reducing accident rates)

In addition to these 5 demands EFFAT fully endorse and support the twelve points highlighted by the [ETUC Manifesto, Delivering a Fair Deal for workers](#) with a specific engagement on the ETUC actions to achieve the revision of the EU public procurement rules.

## **EFFAT Accompanying Strategy for the EU Elections**

This accompanying strategy aims to promote EFFAT's five priorities for the next EU mandate, influence the political agenda of the next EU Parliament and Commission, familiarize new Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) with EFFAT's work and mission, and inspire advocacy activities by EFFAT affiliates within their own national EU election campaigns.

The strategy will be based on the advocacy work EFFAT has carried out in the last years, in synergies with the affiliates and the European Trade Union movement and in the framework of social dialogue.

***The EFFAT Secretariat will engage in an offline and online strategy.***

### **Offline Strategy**

- Engage with European Political Parties with the aim of including our demands in their Manifestos/programmes in view of the elections (ongoing).
- Organise events in the European Parliament with the aim of promoting some of the five demands with supporting MEPs (ongoing).
- Take part in the ETUC mobilisations 'A Fair Deal For Workers' launched by the ETUC attending specific events and demonstrations (ongoing).
- Take part in the ETUC event in the European Parliament on 15 November when the ETUC manifesto will be launched with the aim of promoting our priorities that have been reflected in the ETUC manifesto (15 November).

- Strengthen synergies with the European Trade Union Federations on common battles (i.e: Regulation on Subcontracting).
- Follow-up with the adopted resolution “Strengthening the international solidarity of trade unions to stem the global tide of right-wing populism and militarism” adopted in Antwerp on 9 March 2023.
- Facilitate the invitation of MEPs to EWCs meetings upon request (in the run up to the elections).
- Meet new MEPs and new Commissioners as soon as elected/designated (after the elections).
- Encourage affiliates to contact new MEPs and establish relations and collaboration after the elections in their constituencies.

## Online Strategy

EFFAT has identified a communication agency to support with the online strategy of EFFAT’s EU elections campaign, which is divided into two phases:

- 1 Pre-Election Campaign Phase (January – June 2024): Targeting EP political groups to influence their agenda.
- 2 Post-Election Campaign Phase (June – October 2024): Targeting newly elected MEPs to build relationships and maintain momentum.

EFFAT’s communications team and the agency will work towards:

- a visual identity of the campaign,
- the production of five one-pagers (one per key priority) as key documents to start developing other material of the campaign based on a ‘What - Why – How’-approach,
- five summary videos per topic,
- a folding flyer and other hard-copy material to distribute,
- a social media kit for all channels,
- an affiliate briefing for dissemination,
- a landing page as a repository of the material created.

The name and hashtag of the campaign will be communicated in due course along with the briefing for affiliates on how to use the campaign and elevate our advocacy at national level.

## EFFAT Affiliates Should Engage in the Following Actions

- Translate the EFFAT material if needed and promote the five demands on social media and during national initiatives and events ahead of the EU elections (up to the elections).
- Organise specific events with EU Parliamentary candidates where the five EFFAT demands are promoted (up to the election).
- Organise initiatives, workplace assemblies, and communications activities that urge working people to reject the far right and vote in favour of those parties that support the EFFAT demands and the ETUC manifesto (up to the election).
- Dedicate at least part of their 1st May 2024 activities to the European elections and our common priorities).