



## Together we are strong – The union as the first line of defence

### Nordic Trade Unions Congress 2026 - NFS 5th Congress

22 – 23 September 2026, [Paasitorni](#), Helsinki

#### Tuesday 22 September

- 11:30 Registration  
12:00 Lunch  
13:00 Congress opening
- **Magnus Gissler**, NFS General Secretary
  - **Loa Lava Brynjulfsdottir**, Moderator
  - **Morten Skov Christiansen**, NFS President and FHs President
  - **Jarkko Eloranta** president of SAK, and **Else-Mai Kirvesniemi** president of STTK
- Opening speakers:
- **Inga Ruginienė**, Prime minister of Lithuania
  - **Karen Ellemann**, Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers

#### Thematic session 1: the geopolitical and security situation in the Nordic region and the Arctic

The security landscape in the Nordic region has fundamentally changed in recent years. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a more uncertain international environment, and increasing great power competition in the Arctic are affecting our societies and labour markets. How does this development affect the trade union movement, what risks must we prepare for, and how can we contribute to security and stability in our region?

- 14:20 **Overview – geopolitical situation**
- **Ann Linde**, former Swedish minister of foreign affairs and nordic affairs
- Group discussions at tables
- 15:00 Coffee break – with bingo!
- 15:30 **Security in the Nordic region and the Arctic**
- Plenary circle with different perspectives  
Idea-lab in table groups
- 16:20 **Geopolitical and security situation from a European and global perspective**
- **Esther Lynch**, General Secretary, ETUC
  - **Cathy Feingold**, International Director, AFL-CIO
- Nordic trade union voices meet international perspectives
- 17:10 Closing reflections
- 17:20 **Closing perspective of the day**
- **Antti Lindtman**, Leader of the Finnish Social democratic party - SPD
- 19:00 Networking and dinner at the restaurant [Meripaviljonki](#)

## Wednesday 23 September

### Thematic session 2: When preparedness becomes everyday life – the role of working life in a stronger Nordic region

The pandemic, the energy crisis, and the deteriorating security situation have shown how vulnerable our societies can be. Issues such as supply, preparedness, and critical societal functions have therefore gained new relevance. How are the Nordic countries working with these issues today, what experiences can we learn from each other, and what role should the trade union movement play?

- 09:00 Kick-off and reflection from the previous day
- 09:10 **From the Arctic to the workplace – how do we build a resilient Nordic region?**
- **Joel Linnainmäki**, researcher from the Finnish Institute of International Affairs
- 09:30 **Inspiration fair – What are we doing in the Nordic countries?**
- Examples of good practices for national cooperation in some Nordic countries  
 Discussion groups: How can working life build preparedness and resilience for a safer Nordic region?
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 **A robust Europe – supply preparedness – resilience – working life in transition**
- **Claes-Mikael Ståhl**, Vice General Secretary - ETUC
  - **Representative Business Europe** (TBC)
- Nordic wish lists for the future  
 Perspectives from Nordic trade union voices
- 12:00 Lunch

### Thematic session 3: when the crisis strikes – what do we do?

When society faces crises, both institutions and cooperation are put to the test. The trade union movement plays an important role in protecting workers, maintaining societal functions, and contributing to solutions in difficult situations. How can we strengthen our preparedness, what priorities must we make, and what is required of us when Nordic cooperation is tested?

- 13:00 **The role of the trade union movement when crisis strikes**
- **Morten Skov Christiansen**, president of NFS
- Inspiration examples from Nordic countries  
 Dialogue tables on solutions and priorities
- 14:15 Coffee break
- 14:40 Results from the dialogue tables
- 15:00 **Nordic outlook – we set the direction together**
- The presidents of NFS member organisations reflect together on stage
- 15:30 **When Nordic cooperation is tested – what is required of us?**
- **Johan Strang**, professor, University of Helsinki
- 15:50 Closing
- 16:00 Mingle