

BASTUN Estonian Presidency 2024-2025

Political Priorities for the Presidency Period:

1. Organizing and Revitalizing Trade Unions in the Baltic Sea Region

During our presidency, we will focus on organizing and recruiting members in the evolving labor market. The last time this issue was addressed was during the Danish presidency in 2019-2020. Since then, trade union density has declined amidst rapid labor market changes, ongoing crises, war in Europe, and threats to democracy, making our efforts more critical than ever.

Globally, trade union membership has been decreasing, weakening unions' capacity to organize and support workers. The International Labour Organization (ILO) envisions several future scenarios for trade unions: marginalization, dualization, replacement, and revitalization. These scenarios are unfolding now, some concurrently.

Our presidency aims to emphasize revitalization measures. We will share best practices among BASTUN member organizations for organizing, retaining, and motivating members. This includes strategies to recruit young and precarious workers, leveraging digital tools for organizing, and fostering international collaboration to inspire and energize our members. Without effective organizing, achieving or maintaining 80% collective bargaining coverage, as outlined in the directive on an adequate minimum wage, will be unattainable.

2. Just Transition

Trade unions are crucial in ensuring a just transition by advocating for fair treatment, job security, and proper representation of workers. Our organizations risk marginalization or exclusion from decision-making processes, which could worsen working conditions or lead to job losses.

Balancing workers' needs, industry demands, and environmental concerns is challenging. Conflicting interests can complicate negotiations and undermine the effectiveness of just transition plans. Trade unions must adapt their strategies, foster dialogue among

stakeholders, and advocate for policies that prioritize workers' rights and well-being amidst rapid changes.

During the Estonian presidency, we will facilitate discussions and share experiences among BASTUN members on transition challenges. Beyond addressing the lack of new jobs and skills, we will also focus on the risks of regions previously dependent on fossil fuel extraction becoming abandoned