

IGNACIO FERNÁNDEZ TOXO

ETUC President

Born in El Ferrol (Coruña, Galicia) in 1952.

His working life began as a metalworker in the company Bazán. Because of his active participation in the general strike of El Ferrol in 1972, he was dismissed from Bazán and went to prison. After leaving the prison, he lived clandestinely for four years.

He was President of the Workers' Committee of Bazán and, in November 1987 he was elected General Secretary of the Metalworkers' Federation of CCOO, until 1995. From 1991 to May 2004 he was member of the Executive Committee of the European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF).

In November 1995, he was re-elected General Secretary of the Metalworkers' Federation of CCOO, after the merging process between the Metal Federation and the Mines Federation and he stayed in the post until May 2004.

He is member of the Confederal Council of Comisiones Obreras since 1987; and from November 1997 until April 2002, he was member of the Board of Directors of the Spanish steel company Aceralia. In April 2002 he was appointed member of the Board of Directors of the steel company Arcelor (created by the merger of Aceralia and two other steel companies: Arbed and Usinor), remaining until October 2004. In November 2003, he was appointed President of the Industrial Policy Committee of the EFM, and he occupied this post until October 2004.

In April 2004, he was elected member of CCOO's Confederal Executive Committee, in the 8th Confederal Congress, being appointed Secretary of Trade Union Action and Sectorial Policy.

In that period, he took part in the Supervising Committee for Social Dialogue, and in the working tables for the development of the subjects included in the Social Dialogue Statement. On behalf of CCOO he negotiated and signed the Interconfederal Agreement for Collective Bargaining, adopted by the trade union and employers' organizations. In May 2008, he was appointed member of the Board of Directors of the steel company Arcelor-Mittal, responsibility which he occupies at present.

He was elected General Secretary of CCOO in the 9th Confederal Congress of CCOO, held in Madrid from 17 to 20 December 2008.

On the 18th of May 2011, he was elected President of the ETUC at the XII Statutory Congress of Athens.