**ESTHER LYNCH**

Esther Lynch is currently the General Secretary of the ETUC, having been elected in December 2022. She is standing for General Secretary for the 2023-2027 period.

She has prioritised transparency and trade union values in leadership and has made building a bigger, stronger more united ETUC – together on the offensive to win for working people and their trade unions – a top priority.

She has a strong track record of defending the European Social Model based on strong trade unions at national and sector level, collective bargaining and genuine social dialogue. She is currently leading the campaign against the cost-of-living crisis and against the re-introduction of austerity. She is also leading the negotiations on the Social Partner Agreement on Telework and the Right to Disconnect to be adopted in the form of a Directive.

Previously, Ms Lynch was ETUC Confederal Secretary (2015-2019) and Deputy General Secretary (2019 – 2022). In these roles she led successful actions aimed at improving workers’ and trade union rights by promoting social dialogue, collective bargaining and legislative initiatives such as the Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages, the Transparent and Predicable Working Conditions Directive and the Whistleblowing Directive. She also ran a successful campaign that mobilised support for the European Pillar of Social Rights and the ETUC’s ‘Europe Needs a Pay Rise’ campaign.

She secured the adoption of 15 legally binding occupational exposure limits to protect workers from exposure to carcinogens, as well as concluding social partners’ agreements on digitalisation and on reprotoxins. A lifelong feminist, Esther also led the campaign for a directive to end pay secrecy clauses and the undervaluing of work predominantly done by women. She recommended the adoption of the ETUC Code of Conduct for ETUC meetings and events.

Ms Lynch has extensive trade union experience at Irish, European and international levels, starting with her election as a shop steward in the 1980s. Before coming to the ETUC, she was the Legislation and Social Affairs Officer with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), where she took part in negotiations on Ireland’s National Social Partner Agreements.

**Work experience**
2015- current: European Confederation of Trade Unions (ETUC)

1993 – 2015 : Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), with a key role in negotiations on Ireland’s National Social Partner Agreements, Industrial Officer with responsibility for Equality.

1991-1993: Irish Department of Social Welfare, Political Advisor to Minister for Social Affairs, Joan Burton TD;

1989 -1991: St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Coordinator for the Diploma Programme in estate management studies;

**Other experience**
2000-2015 International Labour Organisation, worker delegate for Ireland; elected by the workers’ electoral college to the drafting committee for several international Conventions

2012 - date: National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Senior Adjunct Lecturer in Law;

2008-2015 Council of the Bar in Ireland, Attorney General's substitute member on the Disciplinary Tribunal;

2007-2009 Veolia (light rail transport in Ireland), Independent adjudicator for the inhouse tribunal;

2002-2008 ESB (Ireland’s main electricity supplier), Independent Chair of the ESB Joint
Equality Council (in-house employer/union group tribunal).