Dear Presidents,

Dear Ministers,

Dear All,

Eurostat data show that more than 20% of the EU population lives at risk of poverty or social exclusion and that poverty is more likely to affect women. Many of these women are mothers, carers and workers, or in working age.

But their potential is untapped, their skills unused or undervalued, their work underpaid and/or precarious.

For an EU that is future-proof and attractive to the rest of the world, our European labour market must be fair, with quality jobs for all and with no discrimination.

This can only be achieved if we massively invest in our public services. They are the infrastructure that allows women to enter and stay in the labour market. That investment will also support women’s employment as majority of public services workers are women. Investment will benefit the general economy: quality public services are vital to reach Europe’s industrial ambitions.

Finally, the ETUC Women’s committee appreciated the assurances we received from the Commission that any backsliding on the Pay Transparency Directive is ruled out but employers’ attacks on the directive and its transposition and implementation are not over. Enough is enough.

The Pay Transparency directive is central to eliminating the gender pay gap and to end the undervaluation of work done by women in sectors that have historically been devalued and underpaid.

This directive must be fully transposed and implemented. Any weakening and deregulation attempt is an attack to women’s rights, pure and simple, and we cannot accept it. We count on the commission to continue being on women’s side.

Thank you