



Global



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UGT condemns new increase on the Selic tax

A blow against workers and a disaster to the growth of Brazil. This was the path chosen by the Committee of Monetary Policies (Copom) by increasing, for the second time in a row, the Selic tax.



The 0,5% increase announced is a display that the government has surrendered to the speculative capital, which uses the media to step pressure through threats that inflation is uncontrollable, even considering that all data point out to a gradual decline with an increase on the harvest and reduction in consumption of families.

The increase in the Selic tax raises the gains of speculators, reduces consumption, halts production and creates unemployment, causing terrorism among the working class.

UGT condemns this decision of Copom and defends that Brazil needs lower interest rates to stimulate investment in industry, trade and, thus, promote the creation of jobs. This is the only way that we will be able to find the path to growth and economic development.

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT

Workers and businessmen condemn such measure

Fiesp (Federation of Industries of the State of Sao Paulo) considered the new increase in the basic interest rate (Selic), in 0,5%, to 8% per year, announced by the Central Bank, will reduce the capacity for economic growth in Brazil. According to Skaf, the government announced that in the first three years of 2013 the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) expansion represented only 0,6%, which made Fiesp review the growth forecast for this year from 2,5% down to 2%.

Apart from UGT, Força Sindical also disapproved the interest rate increase. This decision sparks the alert sign for workers, because, although data show a good level of employment, increasing the Selic tax will contribute to reduce investments in the productive sector, forcing the government to pay higher interest rates to investors, says the memorandum signed by Paulo Pereira da Silva, president of Força Sindical.

Centrals present proposals to the Law on Outsourcing

Trade union centrals had another meeting with the Inter Union Department of Socioeconomic Studies (DIEESE) at UGT's head office, on June 05, to continue the debate on the outsourcing of labour, which had began on June 03.



In the opening of the previous meeting, **Ricardo Patah, president of UGT**, recalled that these discussions have the goal of preparing the first meeting of the Permanent Table of Negotiations along with the Government, scheduled for June 11, at the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Trade union centrals debated in detail each point of the Law Project 4330/2004, written by deputy Sandro Mabel, and created common proposals of change searching for the guarantee of rights to workers.

The result of this meeting will be taken to the Federal Government, to the Permanent Table of Negotiations, which is formed by the main Brazilian trade union centrals and the government. But, prior to this meeting with the government, centrals will have another meeting with deputies Roberto Santiago (PSD-SP), UGT's vice-president, and Ricardo Berzoini (PT-SP), on June 10, to present suggestions raised by the group to these two colleagues who have followed the discussions from the start.

Currently, the law project awaits for the vote of the writer Arthur Mais (PMDB-BA), and for an approval as a substitute in the Constitution and Justice Commission (CCJ). This subject was already approved under a Special Commission and has the goal of promoting studies and propositions aiming towards the regulation of the outsourced work in Brazil, as a substitute, and was written by deputy Roberto Santiago. *(Giselle Corrêa, UGT's Newsroom)*

Agency Work Over the World

Agency workers already account for 46 million people in the world. This data was published in the CIETT (International Confederation of Private Employment Agencies) [economic report 2013](#) .

Brazil is the second country with most people working in temp jobs. They sum up nearly 12,3 million people. USA is the country where most people use labour for a determined time, employing 12,9 million people. Japan is the third country in the ranking, with 2,6 million agency workers.

Paulo Rossi - president of UGT's State branch of Parana and president of SINEEPRES, trade union that represent agency workers in Parana, considers that Brazil has been strengthening its role as an emerging market, however, he emphasizes that, currently, agency workers are very discriminated in their workplace.



"Our fight consists of getting agency workers to achieve the same rights and benefits of formal workers, since outsourcing has been seen as a kind of precarious labor relationship", says Rossi.

"We need public organs to supervise more thoroughly these companies that are hired for these contracts and that, most of the times, once they get their first invoice, close their doors and keep workers from receiving one single penny", the trade union representative ended.

According to CIETT, the Brazilian sectors of outsourced and agency work responded for a R\$ 73,9 billion earning last week.

"We need to get a grip on rapid changes affecting the world of work"

Speaking at the opening of the 102nd International Labour Conference, which took place from June 5 to 20 in Geneva, Ryder said that these issues pose challenges for achieving the goal of decent work for all.

The world of work is being transformed more quickly and more deeply than ever before by rapid changes in demography and technology, growing inequality, poverty and the slow economic recovery, said Guy Ryder, Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

"The most important question, the one asked everywhere and with growing urgency and sometimes alarm, is 'where are the jobs coming from?' and it is most frequently a question addressed to the situation of our young people."



A Governance Initiative, he said, would continue the process of reform within the ILO, which began last year. A standards review mechanism would update and enhance the relevance of the body of international labour standards – the ILO's comprehensive system of instruments on work and social policy.

He also said that the ILO needs to engage more with enterprises.

"An organization which needs to connect better with the realities of business and respond better to business needs and realities, should be making efforts to engage with enterprises... Frankly, we come to this task very late. We should not delay further in setting about it," he explained.

He also highlighted four other proposals relating to green jobs, poverty reduction, women at work and the future of work.

Regarding the Green Initiative, Ryder said that the ILO needs to be centre-stage in international efforts to assure the long-term future of the planet.

"Whether we like it or not, production and consumption systems are crucial determinants of environmental sustainability and the world of work is going to have to make unprecedented efforts to reconcile its future with that of the planet," he stressed.

The ILO also needs to play the fullest role in putting an end to extreme poverty in the world by 2030, he said, and to "eliminate the danger that poverty anywhere constitutes to prosperity everywhere."

A Women at Work Initiative would aim to correct the "persisting and profound disadvantage faced by many women in the world of work". This, he said, is a necessary and good social and economic policy.

Ryder also proposed that an advisory panel on the future of work be established, which would draw up a report for discussion at the Organization's centenary Conference in 2019.

"Here at the ILO we have the mandate, we have the right actors and we are equipping ourselves with the means to make the world of work a better, more humane, kinder and fairer one in which all have a place and where all can have equal opportunity to realize their potential," he added.

During the two-week conference, delegates attending the ILC will discuss a broad range of issues, including employment, growth and social progress; domestic child labour; the situation in Myanmar; employment and social protection in an ageing world; strengthening social dialogue between governments, employers and workers; and promoting decent and green jobs.

Review on the Mercosur Social-Labour Declaration

The first stage of the Mercosur Social-Labour Declaration is concluded.

After 7 years of discussions and searches of consensus, Mercosur Social-Labour Commission, CSL, was finally able to end the first review on Mercosur's Social-Labour Declaration, on May 15, in Montevideo.



UGT, represented by the colleagues **Cícero Pereira da Silva** and **Avelino Garcia**, and by the advisor **Gustavo Garcia**, was participative in such process, and many of the rights established under this declaration were taken to the table of negotiation by UGT, supported by other Mercosur trade union centrals.

In the following stage, the work of the Social-Labour Commission will be discussed. This Commission has the role of supervising the fulfillment of the Social-Labour Declaration. Our proposal is that the Commission becomes stronger and more efficient, able to protect workers once their rights are broken.

Our fight is to enable DSL from being only a declaration of principles, and become an international legally binding tool in the internal legislation of each country, and that active policies of promotion and increase of rights, expressed by DSL, is adopted.

"We must continue on fighting and discussing, under a tripartite way, the importance of turning employment into a main issue in the agenda of the Mercosur countries. We are sure that the creation of quality jobs is the way to face the world crisis, and turn Mercosur into a successful project, useful for millions of workers that we represent.

It is not possible for Mercosul to advance without taking a good look at its workers, without making sure that their rights are preserved and increase", expressed Cícero Pereira.

The position of the trade union sector of Mercosur countries is defined in meetings of the Coordinator of Trade Union Centrals of the Southern Cone (CCSCS), whose secretary general is our colleague Valdir Vicente de Barros. The conclusion of the first stage of the DSL review is also a product of this trade union coordination made by CCSCS (*Gustavo Garcia, from Montevideo*)

Commerce workers of Franco da Rocha will attend ILO Conference

For the second time, the Commerce Workers Union of Franco da Rocha and surroundings, an institution affiliated with UGT, is going to attend an International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The 102nd session, which will take place from June 5 to 20, in Geneva, Switzerland, will be attended by nearly 5 thousand delegates representing governments, employers and workers from 185 ILO member States.

The first participation of this union happened in 1995, occasion in which safety at work and health, among other issues, was discussed. Since then, the Brazilian government permitted the Decree 393, of April 9, 1996, in the law. This decree deals with the regulation in this area of health and safety at work.

"I am flattered with the invitation of UGT's president, Ricardo Patah, who is enabling this opportunity to attend such an important event. It is the right occasion to launch our union in the world scenario and to achieve an international experience, bringing ideas and informations for our region, in addition to possible agreements that will benefit commerce workers of 7 cities that are part of the territorial ground of our union", states Leo, vice president of this union, who adds "currently, Brazil is the 7th largest economy of the world and it deserves the highlights of ILO".

Campaign: Commerce Workers of Sao Paulo approve agenda

Wage campaign 2013:
commerce workers of Sao
Paulo approve agenda of
requests

Watch the video >>



IBGE publicizes map of child work

The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) released, in its homepage, a [map of selected data](#) on the situation of children and teenagers with ages ranging from 10 to 17 years old, regarding work and education, based on results of the samples of the 2010 Census.

This material has the goal of subsidizing the elaboration of multiannual plans - PPA of cities, especially concerning the creation of public policies to tackle child and teenager work and the establishment of their goals.

This report will be a reference for the III World Conference on Child Labour, which will take place in October, in Brasilia. In Brazil, the underage work is only possible in special situations, such as the young apprentice program.

UGT Portugal: here comes a hot one

Trade union centrals prepare a new general strike in Portugal against the government austerity measures

There is going to be a new general strike in Portugal on June 27. This strike was called by UGT, by CGTP (General Confederation of Portuguese Workers) in a protest against the austerity policies of the Pedro Passos Coelho government.

Since 2011, Portugal is part of an economic adjustment program to receive a 78 billion euro aid from the Troika, a committee that consists of the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

To Carlos Silva (in the picture), recently elected UGT's secretary general, "it is going to be a hot June in Portugal".



The UGT Global is the Newsletter of International Information of the União Geral dos Trabalhadores do Brasil.

The UGT union is an organization formed to defend the Brazilian workers across a broad trade union movement, national, ethical, supportive, independent, democratic and innovative.

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