



Inside this number:

- Let's talk about employment, Mrs. President 01
- Patah condemns use of FGTS in loans 02
- In Brasília, Salaberry defends workers 02
- 20-day Paternity leave project is sent to Dilma 02
- Guy Ryder announces Global Youth Initiative 03
- Unemployment affects the service sector 03
- Sanitation in the Fraternity Campaign 04
- UGT supports UAW lawsuit against Nissan 04
- Nilson Duarte Costa is reelected 04

Let's talk about employment, Mrs. President

Ricardo Patah, national president of União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT

On February 17, UGT will attend the meeting of the Forum Debate on Policies of Employment, Labor, Income and Social Security in Brasilia. I will represent our trade union center with the goal of discussing the essential issue of the Brazilian crisis at the moment: job creation with the reinstatement of economy..

To UGT and to other trade union centers that already expressed their positions, the discussion of labor and social security reforms is totally inconvenient at this time. Measures taken by the government took will not create more jobs, in fact, they will deepen recession.

They want a labor reform through labor market flexibility, with the prevalence of the negotiated over the legislated, as minister Nelson Barbosa intends, in times of serious unemployment means wanting the reduction of rights and benefits of workers.

The same way, hampering retirement or decreasing benefits, as the social security reform seems to be planned, would only aggravate the situation of heads of family who are currently unemployed after so many years of work and who want to improve their situation.

Undoubtedly these reforms will only deepen the situation of Brazilians. It seems that the Finance minister is only presenting them with the sole purpose of being qualified, by businessmen and financiers, as a severe minister.

In times like these, it is essential to talk about employment. One of the tragedies of the progression of unemployment is that it is striking not only young workers and workers who recently entered the job market, but also heads of working families.

Miguel Rossetto, minister of Labor and Social Security, seems to share our preoccupation since he defends that there is no urgency in changing the rules. "We must separate a temporary problem, caused by a recessive environment and by an increasing unemployment, from a medium and long term debate," Rossetto affirmed to the newspaper Estado de S. Paulo.

Due to this tax crisis, it is possible to talk about a tax reform, for example, by taxing profits and results of companies that, after 1995, stopped paying these taxes in Brazil. In average size economies as Brazil, only Estonia has a tax regime as liberal as the Brazilian.

Therefore, at the present time, let's talk about jobs, Mrs. President.



Patah condemns use of FGTS in loans



Ricardo Patah gave an interview to Heródoto Barbeiro, at the JR newscast, and condemned the use of FGTS (Severance Indemnity Fund) as loan guarantee. The president of UGT and of the Trade Union of Commerce Workers considered it a high-risk operation. UGT defends restoring economy and has presented proposals with this goal.

In Brasília, Salaberry defends workers

In another action in pro of the interest of workers, Miguel Salaberry Filho, secretary of UGT's department of Institutional Relationships and president of the Trade Union of Employees in Sports Clubs and Federations (Secefergs), went to the Senate, at the Human Rights Commission and Participative Legislation (CDH), saying what is necessary to protect the class interests.

On February 4, through an Interactive Public Legal Hearing to discuss social security, labor and economic reforms announced by the government, **Miguel Salaberry** affirmed the workers rights to rely on mechanisms that defend those that need protection the most, through mechanisms such as the automatic adjustment of the IRS deducted at source, which never follows the inflation rate.



Speaking on behalf of workers, Salaberry defended a specific tax reform that would protect the individual rights of workers, instead of a reform in the social security area, which tries to wrongly reach the balance via measures such as the increase of the minimum wage – 65 years for men and women – that extend the retirement, once the formula 85/95 becomes flexible.

20-day Paternity leave project is sent to Dilma for sanction

On February 3, the plenary session of the Senate approved the 20-day paternity leave through a regulatory mark of childhood rights, aimed to children aged up until 6 years old.

In the meantime, the extension of the leave will not be mandatory to all companies, but only to those that joined the Civic Company Program, which also enables the extension of maternity leave to six months. The 20-day paternity leave will also be used for adoption.

Guy Ryder announces Global Youth Initiative

A unique global partnership intends to increase the economic perspectives of young people who entered the job market.

Amid the global youth employment crisis – characterized by unprecedented levels of unemployment, poor quality and low paying jobs – the UN system is launching an ambitious initiative to generate decent jobs for youth and to assist in their transition from school-to-work.

The Global Initiative on **Decent Jobs for Youth** was launched at UN headquarters today by **Guy Ryder, the Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO)**, at the opening of the UN's annual Youth Forum.

In describing the Initiative, Ryder stated that it is a unique partnership with governments, the UN system, businesses, academic institutions, youth organizations and other groups to scale-up action to create new opportunities and avenues for quality employment in the global economy and “assist young people in developing the skills needed to compete in today's job market”.

More than twenty youth ministers and more than 500 youth representatives attended the meeting. Ryder encouraged them to become “totally engaged” and be active agents of change. “Your voices echo aspirations of the youth everywhere. Your voices must be listened and put into practice if we want to build inclusive and sustainable societies, face challenging injustice and inequalities and open paths for peace, progress and prosperity to all.” (*ILO news*)



“Today, two out of every five young persons of working age are either unemployed or working jobs that don't pay enough to escape poverty.”

Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General

Unemployment affects the service sector

One of the last pillars of resistance to the crisis, the sector of administrative and complementary services began to fire employees at the end of 2015 due to the choice of companies in reducing the demand for this kind of activity. Without a choice, this segment – which included cleaning, surveillance and telemarketing tasks – is terminating contracts of people with less qualification and lower remuneration, who may find it hard to be in the job market once again.



Besides, since this sector is intensive in labor, the sign that the crisis is striking Brazil and might even reinforce the vicious circle seen over the last months. When these people are fired, they start to consume and spend less, depressing even more the economic activity and creating more unemployment.

The sector of administrative and complementary services dove into a negative path last July, when the volume shrank 2.8% concerning the same month in 2014. Since then, the decline rhythm only intensified itself, until it reached a 6.4% loss in November, according to the same type of comparison, as pointed out by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).

IBGE's research on the job market encompasses more segments than only the administrative and complementary, but it gives a hint on the movement that is also perceived by job agencies. In vagas.com (a job hunting website), the applications for assistant/operational positions advanced 25% in 2015 compared to the previous year. However, the job offers for these positions grew only by 6% in the period. (*Estadão, 10.02.2016*)



Sinttel and Fenattel intensify struggle for regulation of the profession of telemarketer



Sanitation is the topic of the Fraternity Campaign

The 2016 Fraternity Campaign will be focused on the need of basic sanitation for all the population. The initiative was launched on February 10 through a partnership between CNBB (Brazilian National Confederation of Bishops) and Conic (National Council of Christian Churches).

“The lack of basic sanitation kills. Our common families are suffering and dying due to diseases transmitted by mosquitoes,” said **Dom Sergio da Rocha, president of CNBB**. Open sewage, trash on the streets and incorrect water storage are pointed out by specialists as the main factors for the spread of the *Aedes aegypti*, vector of zika, dengue fever and chikungunya.



Gilberto Kassab, minister of Cities, recognized the fact that Brazil is “much below” an adequate offer of basic sanitation? “Though over the last years we had an improvement, we still leave a lot to be desired,” he said during the ceremony. He considered that, currently, the battle against the mosquito is an “absolute priority” of the federal government. **(Folha de S.Paulo, 02/10/2016)**

UGT supports UAW lawsuit against Nissan

On February 05, representatives of United Auto Workers – UAW (American automobile trade union) went to the national head office of UGT to deal with a trade union lawsuit against Nissan, one of the official sponsors of Rio 2016 Olympic Games. This lawsuit has the goal of demanding this company to respect the affiliation right of its workers in the units of Tennessee and Mississippi.



Ginny Coughlin and Rafael Guerra, unionists from UAW, were received by Ricardo Patah, UGT’s national president, and by secretaries Canindé Pegado (secretary general) and Marcos Afonso de Oliveira (Press Department). José Antonio Martins Fernandes, president of the Trade Union of Physical Education Teachers of the State of São Paulo (Sinpefesp), was also at the meeting..

The lawsuit is expected to take place on February 18, in the State of Rio de Janeiro, with the Organizing Committee of Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Nilson Duarte Costa is reelected

President of UGT’s State branch of Rio de Janeiro is reelected to lead the Trade Union of Heavy Construction

Nilson Duarte Costa, President of UGT’s State branch of Rio de Janeiro was reelected president of the Trade Union of Heavy Construction (Sitraicp) via elections that took place on February 01 and 02. With 16,332 valid votes out of 16,562 voters, slate 1 was reelected.

“Fifty ballots were scattered in 32 cities in which construction work for the Olympic Games are taking place, highway BR 201 duplication, among others. A large number of workers who were there revealed that this trade union has credibility. Workers voted for continuity, since we have met their demands not only for better jobs but also by being present,” he stated.



The World UGT - UGT Global is the Newsletter of International Information of the União Geral dos Trabalhadores

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.

Communications Director: Marcos Afonso de Oliveira

Publisher: Mauro Ramos