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## UGT has meeting with Temer

UGT's National President and Leaders have meeting with president Temer and ministers in Brasilia to discuss new labor legislation

On September 11, **Ricardo Patah, União Geral dos Trabalhadores President**, was at the Planalto Palace, in Brasília-DF, with President Michel Temer to discuss the elaboration of a Provisional Measure to correct the misunderstandings inserted in the new labor legislation, which will come into effect in November and will bring serious damages to the working class.

Henrique Meirelles, Finance Minister, Ronaldo Nogueira, Minister of Labor, and Gilberto Kassab, Minister of Science and Technology, attended the meeting.

At the meeting, it was decided that Minister Nogueira will be responsible for elaborating the text of the Provisional Measure and discuss it with trade union centers, political parties, the House of Representatives and the Senate. In addition, he will also speak with Rodrigo Maia, president of the House of Representatives, and with Eunício Oliveira, president of the Senate, to gather suggestions that will enable its approval



UGT is sure that the fundamental factors for the recovery of the suppressed rights of workers are reviewing the issue of intermittent work, the work of pregnant women in unhealthy environments, the election of the workers' representative in companies with more than 200 employees without the presence of the union, union costing etc.

The meeting was also attended by directors and congressmen that belong to the trade union center, such as the national vice presidents Ademir Camilo, Roberto de Lucena and Roberto Santiago, as well as directors, such as Miguel Salaberry Filho (UGT's National Secretary of Institutional Relations), Luiz Carlos Motta (president of UGT's State branch of São Paulo), Isaú Chacon (president of UGT's State branch of Distrito Federal) and Chiquinho Pereira (UGT's National Secretary of Trade Union Organization and Policies).

President Michel Temer said that the political leaderships of the House of Representatives and of the Senate are going to build a provisional measure with the Labor Minister to serve the workers. He made a commitment to forward it by the end of this month to the Congress.

On September 12, **Ricardo Patah**, UGT's president, accompanied by leaders of the trade union center from several states and also by the presidents of Força Sindical, NCST, CTB and CSB had a meeting with president Michel Temer to deliver a document of the trade union centers with proposals for the generation of jobs and resumption of the country's development.



UGT nos seus dez anos de luta

## Trade unions at the Planalto Palace

Unions of employees and employers hold meeting with president Temer

On September 12, UGT, in a unitary action with Força Sindical, CTB, Nova Central and CSB, representing more than 30 million workers, and FIESP, representing businessmen, were at Planalto Palace to hand over emergency proposals to President Michel Temer for the resumption of employment in the country.



According to **Ricardo Patah, União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT's national president**, the union between employees and employers to deliver a set of proposals aimed at the development of Brazil to the federal government is a sign of transformations. "The structure we are developing with the social actors, businessmen and workers, bringing suggestions to the government, with absolute certainty is indicative of important changes," he said.

Patah emphasized that this is the beginning of a process of hope. In his opinions, there is a kind of hopelessness in the air in Brazil.

"When procedures that fail to leverage jobs and people unfortunately are not able to put bread on their table start to take place, this generates the prolongation of hopelessness, for this reason unity of institutions that represent employees and employers, together with the government's sensitivity to receive our effective proposals for employment generation, social inclusion and citizenship, is essential for the hope of Brazilians to return."

Ricardo also commented that the proposals given to the president are very pragmatic and punctual. He emphasized the problem created by the shutdown of public works, which caused unemployment to increase. "This issue of paralyzed works is absurd, because we need these works, we need employment and the work is not performed. We must change that."

The president of UGT also spoke about credit and the release of funds by the government to micro and small entrepreneurs. "It is crucial that government resources are directed to large enterprises, but it is equally important to provide them to micro and small enterprises, since they generate thousands of jobs."

Patah reinforced that this union is the construction of the capacity to give interactivities between all the economic activities and all the workers who perform these activities.

The unionist recalled a demand made to the president during a meeting at the National Federation of Automobile Distribution (Fenabrave), in which the renewal of the government's vehicle fleets itself was questioned. "What has been said is that the fleets are exchanged, but this is not reflected in commerce, because this renewal is made by Internet or by wholesale and the companies that sell are left with the loss, that is, they remain without the sale".

"What is being built here is this capacity for interactivity among all sectors, because the industry is indeed important, but trade, agriculture, among others are important as well. We must have the effective capacity to make a Brazil in which everyone is represented and that all receive the capacity of the government to distribute income, generate employment and citizenship," he concluded.

### Union centers discuss correction of the New Labor Law

On September 04, the presidents of CTB, Nova Central, CSB and Força Sindical had a meeting at UGT's head office, in São Paulo, and discussed the formulation of a Provisional Measure (MP) that would try to correct the points approved in the new Labor Law, mainly regarding intermittent work and the permission for pregnant women to work in unhealthy places.

Other points raised in the meeting propose that the founding of trade unions can only happen unanimously in the National Labor Council, aiming to end the "union factory", which consists of creating fake trade unions with no representation; the institution that does not negotiate with the employers in a period of two years loses its union charter; and the quorum to validate union assemblies, which was debated around the presence of 10% of the categories, and could be done in more than one convocation, unlike what currently happens, when the call is for a single meeting.



Patah was interviewed by TV Globo



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## UNICOM is founded

Paraguay hosts UNICOM's founding assembly

On September 5, the founding assembly of **Mercosur's Confederation of Trade Unions (UNICOM)** took place in the city of Encarnacion, Paraguay, bringing together trade union leaders from Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile.

This institution, which now represents a new tool for the trade union fight for the rights of commerce workers in the border regions of these four South American countries, is a partnership of **UGT**, the **Argentine Federation of Employees of Commerce and Services (FAECYS)** and **UNI Americas**.

In his speech, **Ricardo Patah** emphasized the importance of founding UNICOM as an entity that becomes a reference in the struggle for better working conditions, overcoming borders and the barriers of language and culture, since with all the adversities that the workers of Brazil are living with the approval of the new Labor Law and the removal of rights, inevitably this change may spill over to other countries in South America.



**José Luiz Oberto** was led to the presidency of UNICOM and will manage the entity in a period in which neoliberalism regained its strength in Latin America and in several other countries. The hate, racist and xenophobic speeches proliferate in an exacerbated way to the point of seeking a setback of all that, for many years, society fought against and conquered at the expense of blood and sweat.

"Decent work is one of the basic human rights principles, and this is paramount anywhere, that is the reason why UNICOM was created. So that, even in the face of this ultra-rightist and extreme conservative period, we can confront and organize the commerce workers of the frontier trade," emphasized **Avelino Garcia**, from the **Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo**.

## The Future of Work

**UNI Global holds seminar to debate the Future of the World of Work**

On September 13, Ricardo Patah, UGT's national president, attended the opening of the second day of the seminar The Future of the World of Work, in São Paulo



This event, hosted by UNI Global Union, brings together representatives from several countries in Europe, North and South America to discuss the labor market through the point of view of technological advances, the age of digitization and artificial intelligence. "Artificial intelligence is a reality and is taking away the employment of many people, due to this fact meetings like these are essential because they develop tasks to point paths to be followed," explained Patah..

The leader of UGT emphasized that currently in Brazil large supermarket chains are trying to set up self-checkouts, in which there is no need of the human labor force. "We, from the Commerce Workers Union, are seeking for a sanction of a Decree Law to prevent the implementation of these self-checkouts because that will lead thousands of people to unemployment," Ricardo said.

Patah recalled the struggle of UGT and trade unions of filling station attendants to prevent the automation of fuel pumps from being implemented in Brazil, which would inevitably result in unemployment. In the face of a scenario in which thousands of jobs are being extinguished, few are being created, and technology is increasingly replacing human labor, the participants of this meeting were debating ways to tackle this huge challenge.

**Philip Jennings, UNI Global Union Secretary General**, was invited to join the newly established ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work. This Commission will face the challenges of a rapid transformation of the world of work



Cloves José Rodrigues  
Temer signs  
decree against  
commerce



Self-service boxes  
at supermarkets

## UGT fights for lower interest rates

**União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)**, through a unitary action with other trade union centers, held a protest against the high interest rates (Selic) in front of the Central Bank building, at Avenida Paulista, currently at 9.25% per year..



"This protest is part of the agenda of the trade union centers. We are always questioning and fighting for lower interest rates that, here in Brazil, are the largest on the planet. At the moment, there are 14 million unemployed people in the country and the Selic rate directly interferes in this situation. Lower basic interest rates generate credit, which encourages production, generates consumption, employment, income and, consequently, moves the economy. That's what Brazilians need, but it's exactly the opposite of what's happening," said Josimar Andrade, director of the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo, an institution affiliated to UGT.

## New benefits for workers of the beauty sector

Among the news, there are: the implementation of the **Benefício Social Familiar** (Family Social Benefit), the expansion of the general stability, and clauses that guarantee the participation of trade union institutions in the approval of Collective Agreements and the discharge of labor allowances.

The Federation of Employees in Tourism and Hospitality of the State of São Paulo - FETHESP, an institution affiliated with UGT, signed the Collective Labor Convention of Employees in Beauty Institutes and Ladies' Hairdressers, after several rounds of negotiations with the Employer Trade Union Sindibeleza. The new Convention is effective from June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2019.

The joint negotiation, coordinated by Rogério Gomes, president of FETHESP, extended rights with the achievement of the clause of the Family Social Benefit, in which the trade union provides social benefits with the goal of supporting workers and their families in case of child birth, accident, illness, retirement, permanent incapacitation or death, offering a budget to contribute with the expenses arising from these situations.

## Mexican delegation visits UGT's head office



On September 11, **União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)** received a visit from the Mexican delegation of Sindicato Único de Trabajadores de los Poderes, Municipios e Instituciones Descentralizadas del Estado de México (SUTEYM). This meeting is a covenant of the Americas with UGT's Department of Integration of the Americas and UGT's Institute of Social Promotion (IPROS), both from UGT, which held a National Seminar.

According to Isabel Kausz, director and director of the Women's Department of the Commerce Workers Union who was accompanying the Mexican visitors, this covenant is intended to exchange experiences on the Brazilian political situation and its reforms, both labor, which was already approved, and social security, which is in process, seeking to relate them to the changes that have already took place in Mexico..

## The social security reform and public servants

This **Technical Note 181** deals with changes in the retirement of public servants due to the social security reform. This reform means removing several rights from these workers, as well as creating obstacles for them to access their benefits.



NT 181 - A reforma da previdência e os servidores públicos

The 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.

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