

EPSU Pan-European Conference of Utilities Unions

8 October 2025, 13h30 – 17h15 CEST followed by a reception
9 October 2025, 09h00 – 15h30 CEST

Hotel Four Points by Sheraton Ljubljana Mons

Languages:

Active: EN, FR, DE, IT, SV, RU, BCS, ES, CZ, HU

DRAFT AGENDA

Wednesday, October 8: 13h30 – 17h15

Welcome and registrations 13h30 – 14h00

1. Opening (14h00 – 14h30)

- Donna Rowe-Merriman, President of the EPSU Utilities Standing Committee, National Officer UNISON, UK
- Mitja C. Fabjan, President of Sindikat SDE, Slovenia
- Jan Willem Goudriaan, General Secretary of EPSU (*online*)

2. Keynote speech Bojan Kumer, Slovenian Minister of the Environment, Climate and Energy (14h30 – 15h00) (TBC)

3. Future proofing Europe's green transition: workforce and investment needs in critical infrastructure (15h00 – 15h45) ALL SPEAKERS ONLINE

Public infrastructure is the backbone of society and essential to guaranteeing access to water, sanitation, and energy. Yet critical infrastructure such as energy grids, pipelines, and sewage networks do not serve all communities equally. Decades of underinvestment, mismanagement, and privatisation have deepened inequalities while causing ecological and social harm. Today, Europe's ageing infrastructure is increasingly strained, with the effects of neglect increasingly laid bare by climate change and extreme weather events. At the same time, efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change are introducing new and complex demands on these vital systems. This panel will look at investment needs in critical infrastructure to future proof Europe's green transition and ensure universal access to water, sanitation and energy.

- Milo Fiasconaro, Executive Director of Aqua publica Europa
- Colin McFarlane, Author of Waste and the City: the crisis of sanitation and the right to citylife
- Brian Kamanzi, Energy policy research associate, Trade Unions for Energy Democracy

Coffee Break 15h45 – 16h00

4. Ensuring decent work in the Utilities Sectors (16h00 – 17h15)

The utilities sectors are at the forefront of efforts reduce climate change and achieve an ecological transition. However, there is a risk of environmental objectives being pursued to the detriment of workers in these sectors. In this panel, we will hear more broadly about the green transition and the current and potential impact on working conditions. We will then hear concrete examples from Unions in their efforts to protect quality jobs and good working conditions.

- Elspeth Hathaway, Energy Analyst of the International Energy Agency
- Mitja C. Fabjan, President of Sindikat SDE, Slovenia (TBC)
- Dr. Vera Wegmann, Director of the Public Services International Research Unit (PSIRU), University of Greenwich
- Adrian Kane, SIPTU (TBC)

Reception

Thursday, October 9: 09h00 – 15h30

1. Looking back at the past years – achievements and future priorities (09h00 – 09h20)

2. Climate denialism and the far right (09h20 – 10h30)

- Amalia Hammarlund, Just Transition & Climate Project Officer, International Trade Union Confederation
- Maria Botella Trotonda, Climate Justice and Energy Campaigner, Friends of the Earth Europe (TBC)
- Thomas Pellerin-Carlin, Member of the European Parliament (TBC)

Coffee break 10h30 – 10h45

3. AI in Public Utilities: impact on workers in the energy, waste and water sectors (10h45 – 12h00) (ALL SPEKAERS ONLINE)

- Aída Ponce Del Castillo, Senior Researcher at the European Trade Union Institute (TBC)
- Christina J. Colclough, Why Not Lab

Lunch break 12h00 – 13h30

4. Health and Safety in a transitioning sector (13h30 – 15h00)

- Rory O'Neill, adviser on health and safety at the International Trade Union Confederation (*TBC*)
- Christine Chiffre, Chair of the Suez European Works Council (*TBC*)
- Annick Starren, Senior Project Manager at European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, EU-OSHA

5. Adoption of the EPSU Utilities Standing Committee Ljubljana Declaration (15h00 – 15h15)

6. Closing (15h15 – 15h30)

End at 15h30