Time for a new social accord:

Creating employment, protecting the environment. Experiences from South Africa and the European Union and union proposals.
Wednesday 20th, 13.00 – 14.00

One of the major economic challenges today is the move towards resource-efficient production processes, including reducing carbon usage. However, climate change and other environmental objectives will hardly be reached if attention is not paid to the labour dimension of these policies. The world needs to tackle the urgent challenge of creating 600 million production jobs over the next ten years and, further, improve the low incomes of more than 900 million people and their families who are living below the poverty line.

The creation of Green and Decent Jobs is a common goal for the European Union and for South Africa. For the last years, both regions have put in place policies and programme to promote the generation of new jobs in sectors such as renewable energies, energy efficiency or sustainable management of natural resources, create new income opportunities, reduce inequality and increase social cohesion at the same time.

As both regions are facing a cruel unemployment crisis, which is condemning millions of workers to poverty and social exclusion and hits particularly the youth, priority should be given to have these initiatives enlarged. Governments and society of both South Africa and the European Union can count on unions to be part of the change. Trade unions are committed to push for a more ambitious approach to environment and decent employment creation.

This side event will present an overview of both regions in green jobs creation data and policy frameworks, and it will present two ambitious trade union proposals that aim to start an urgent transition towards a green economy with social justice in its core.

- A Marshall Plan for Europe, DGB Germany
- One million jobs campaign, participated by COSATU South Africa

**Presentors:** Sustainlabour, DGB Germany, COSATU
Respondents: Ministry of Water and Environmental Affairs, European Commission DG Environment, ITUC, ILO, UNEP