

# 2000

## The minimum wage: 25 years on

When the National Minimum Wage Act came into law on 1 April 2000 it set the lowest rate of hourly pay employers can legally pay their employees, and kick-started a debate about the effects on job creation and competitiveness that still rumbles on.

As part of our Trade Union Week celebrations, the Private Sector Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions is hosting a symposium to mark the 25th anniversary of Ireland's minimum wage.

### Senior union officials will reflect on:

- trade union involvement in the introduction of the minimum wage.
- its impact on earnings, employment and employers.
- the EU adequate minimum wages directive.
- implications for collective agreements in low-wage sectors.
- what's next for the minimum wage?

Join us:

### May Day

Thursday 1 May 2025  
9.30am – 12.30am

Fórsa offices,  
Nerney's Court, Dublin  
D01 R2C5

Register now at  
[unionweek@ictu.ie](mailto:unionweek@ictu.ie)

All are welcome

STRONGER TOGETHER  
**CONGRESS**  
Irish Congress of Trade Unions  
Private Sector Committee



# 2025

#BetterInAUnion #TradeUnionWeek

## PROGRAMME

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## The minimum wage: 25 years on

9.00	<b>Registration</b>
9.30	<b>Welcome</b> Neil McGowan, chair of the Private Sector Committee and head of manufacturing division with SIPTU
9.40 - 10.00	<b>Evelyn Owens remembered, trade unionist and chair of the National Minimum Wage Commission (1997-8)</b> Kevin Callinan, general secretary of Fórsa
10.00 - 10.20	<b>Trade unions role in the National Minimum Wage Act 2000</b> Patricia O'Donovan, former deputy general secretary of Congress
10.20 - 10.40	<b>The impact of the minimum wage on earnings, employment and employers</b> Paul Mac Flynn, co-director of NERI
10.40 - 11.00	<b>The EU directive on adequate minimum wages</b> Torsten Müller, senior researcher at the European Trade Union Institute
11.00 – 11.30	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11.30 – 12.10	<b>Panel discussion: Non-wage benefits in collective agreements in low wage sectors</b> Chair: Fionnuala Ní Bhrógáin, vice chair of the Private Sector Committee and head of organising and campaigning with the CWU Lorraine O'Brien, general secretary of Mandate Adrian Kane, head of services division of SIPTU Paddy Kavanagh, general secretary of Connect
12.10 – 12.30	<b>Closing address: What's next for the minimum wage?</b> Owen Reidy, general secretary of Congress

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