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Seminar organized by Ph.D Programme in Labour, Development and Innovation UNIMORE –
Marco Biagi Foundation

The Future of Trade Unions: What Can Australia, the USA and UK Learn from Italian Law and the Strategies Adopted by Italian Unions?

Monday 16 January 2023, 12.00 am - 1.15 pm
Marco Biagi Foundation • L.go Marco Biagi 10, Modena

Introduction

Iacopo Senatori

Economics Department Marco Biagi, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Speaker

Anthony Forsyth

Graduate School of Business & Law, RMIT University, Australia

Final Remarks

Alberto Tampieri

Department of Law, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Abstract

Union membership decline in Australia, the USA and UK has been far more pronounced over the last 30 years than in Italy, where the main union confederations retain a strong institutional position in the national social partnership framework and national/industry-level collective bargaining. Italian law (the 1970 Workers Statute) also provides a firmer basis for union organisation and representation at the workplace level. In contrast, the labour laws of the other three countries are focused on bargaining at the level of the enterprise with strict controls on strike action. These laws have given employers opportunities to implement 'fissured' business models through which they keep unions at a distance, and to engage in 'union-busting' to thwart collective bargaining campaigns.

The seminar is open and the participation is free.

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