**TUC 2016 C07 Protecting worker and trade union rights in the EU Brexit Motion 17 and amendments**

Congress believes that the purpose of the trade union movement is to ensure that workers’ rights are protected, maintained and enhanced. We must oppose any assault on those rights as a result of the decision to leave the EU.

The EU has played a key role in setting good employment practices and legal standards protecting workers from exploitation, inequality, hazards, discrimination. Leave campaigners who promised these rights would be respected must be held to account.

Congress notes that this movement campaigned vigorously against the Trade Union Act 2016, and that our rights as workers continue to be among the most restricted in Europe. Any further restrictions through Brexit negotiations are completely unacceptable.

Congress calls for:

i the recognition of trade unions as key stakeholders in the Brexit negotiations

ii a campaign to ensure that the UK government does not repeal any current rights guaranteed by the EU or water down or dismantle TU and worker rights

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iii affiliates to be particularly aware of the need to protect existing equalities and discrimination legislation, recognising that the hard won rights of pregnant workers and working parents and carers are especially prone to being attached and reduced

iv the rights of existing EU workers to remain in the UK to be protected, whilst ensuring the movement of workers in the EU is a key reciprocal right in any agreement that allows UK access to the single market

v the TUC to seek assurances from the government that UK nationals working in the EU on behalf of UK public sector employers will be guaranteed job security and to work with private sector employers to provide the same assurances for their UK workers in the EU

vi repeal of the Trade Union Act, and the promotion of the IER manifesto for Labour Law

vii the General Council to coordinate resistance and opposition to any attacks on the rights, security and living standards of working people.

viii in the light of a potentially impending recession the TUC should campaign to end the policy of public sector pay restraint to ensure that public sector workers, including NHS staff, do not pay the price of Brexit with a decade of pay restraint.

Mover: UNISON Seconder: Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Supporters: Royal College of Midwives; FDA