



### Registration form

Return to:

**'About Time Conference'**

TUC Economic and Social Affairs Department  
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The Trades Union Congress is the national centre for Britain's trade unions. It represents more than 75 member unions with a total of over 6.7 million members.

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# about time

promoting flexibility and tackling excessive working hours

**A TUC conference for trade unionists, employers, HR and personnel professionals, academics and policy makers**

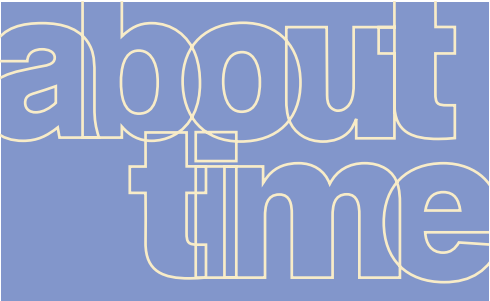
**Tuesday 5 February 2002  
Congress House**

*Keynote speakers:*

**Patricia Hewitt**, *Secretary of State for Trade and Industry*  
**John Monks**, *TUC General Secretary*

The conference will be chaired by **Sheena McDonald**





promoting flexibility and tackling excessive working hours

Meeting the increasing demand for flexible working patterns from both workers and employers and tackling excessive working hours in the UK are two inter-related issues that are rapidly rising up the policy agenda.

The following key trends are driving this agenda:

- employers in both the private and public sectors are under increasing pressure to offer employees a greater choice of working patterns. Leading employers use choice to enhance competitiveness and productivity and to deliver high quality services to their customers and clients
- negotiating flexible working patterns is becoming a key collective bargaining issue for trade unions as employees increasingly express a desire for having a greater say in the number, and pattern, of their working hours
- the UK provision for opt-outs from the working time directive limit on hours of work is due to end in 2003 and trade unions and employers need to address the fact that four million employees in the UK are still working in excess of this.

This conference will examine the trends in working hours and flexible working patterns in both the UK and across Europe and the different policy approaches that have been implemented.

It will especially focus on practical examples of how employers and trade unions are working together to promote working patterns that meet the needs of both workers and employers and reduce excessive working hours.

The conference will:

- draw on a range of UK and international experiences;
- look at what the government can do;
- look at what employers and unions can do, and identify best practice on negotiating working time;
- help employers and unions to formulate strategies to cope with the end of the opt-out from the 48-hour week.

programme

9.30	Registration
10.30	Chair’s introduction Sheena McDonald
10.40	Setting the scene John Monks TUC General Secretary
11.00	UK expert panel Leading UK academics debate the key issues: behaviour and motivation; health and safety; and the law
11.40	Case studies Three union/employer presentations on practical initiatives to promote working time flexibility and reduce excessive working hours
12.25	The government’s view Patricia Hewitt Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
1.0	Lunch
2.15	The French experience Elizabeth Guigou French Minister for Labour (invited)
2.45	European panel Trade unionists and experts provide a European perspective
3.30	Role of employers and union negotiators A panel of employer organisation representatives and trade union negotiators respond to the debate
4.0	Next steps John Monks TUC General Secretary
4.10	Chair’s closing remarks Sheena McDonald
4.15	Close

registration

Name

Position

Organisation

Address

e-mail

TelephoneFax

Signed

Conference fees:

Unions: £50

Local authority/statutory/voluntary sector: £150;

Commercial: £350

All prices include VAT

Please make cheques payable to the TUC

☐ I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ for\_\_\_\_\_ place(s)

OR debit my VISA/Mastercard

Account number

Expiry date

Cardholder name

Signed

Please inform the TUC by 15 January if any delegates require any of the following, giving details as necessary:

☐ Crèche

☐ Dietary requirements

☐ Access requirements

☐ BSL interpretation

☐ Documentation in accessible format (state which)

Return this form (and any photocopies for multiple delegates) to

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