



BRIEFLY ABOUT REPORT 4 OF 5 | 2011

Opinions on Unions and Work

*Trade union tasks, trade union influence
and trade union political cooperation*



The Swedish Trade Union Confederation

Trade union tasks, trade union influence and trade union political cooperation

Summary of Report 4

The fourth report in the series 'Opinions on unions and work' presents employee views on trade union tasks, trade union influence and cooperation between LO and the Social Democratic Party.

Trade union tasks

Almost all employees (between 95 and 97 per cent) consider that trade unions should work with the following issues: employment security, work environment, wages, wage bargaining and protection against income loss. This applies to LO members as well as TCO and Saco members.

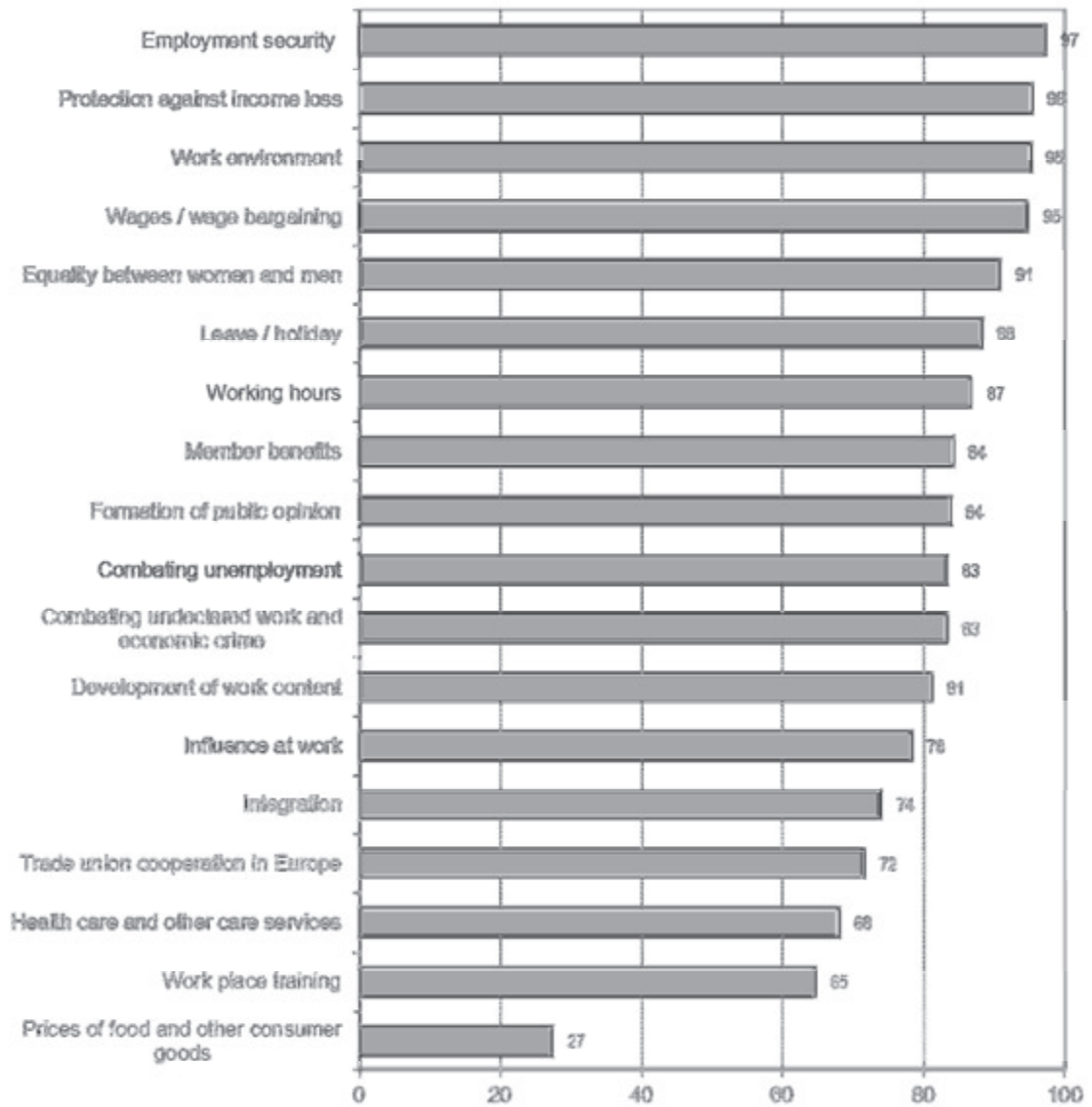
These four issues were to be found at the very top of all surveys conducted between 1988 and 2011.

Nearly equal proportions of LO members, about 90 per cent, believe that trade unions should also work with such issues as equality between women and men, leave/holiday and working hours.

Approximately 80 per cent of LO members consider that member benefits, formation of public opinion, combating unemployment, development of work content and wages should be included in trade union tasks.

The least proportion of LO members believe that unions should work with such issues as influencing prices of food and other consumer goods (27 per cent) and work place training (65 per cent). See diagram 2.1.

Diagram 2.1 Issues to be included in trade union work.
LO members. Per cent



Trade union influence

Half of LO members consider that trade unions should have more influence in the workplace than today. About 40 per cent believe that unions should have neither more nor less of a say, while only 1 per cent believe that unions should have less of a say. 9 per cent say they do not know. (See diagram 3.2 and chart 3.1)

Even among TCO members, the highest response rate (44 per cent) belongs to those who consider that unions should have more influence, while 42 per cent believe that unions should have neither more nor less of a say. Only 2 per cent of TCO members feel that unions should have less of a say.

Among Saco members, the largest response group (47 per cent) represents those who believe that unions should have neither more nor less influence, while 38 per cent think unions should have a greater say. However, the proportion of Saco members who believe that unions should have less of a say is almost as low as among LO and TCO members (3 per cent).

Diagram 3.2 Should trade unions have more or less influence? LO members. Per cent

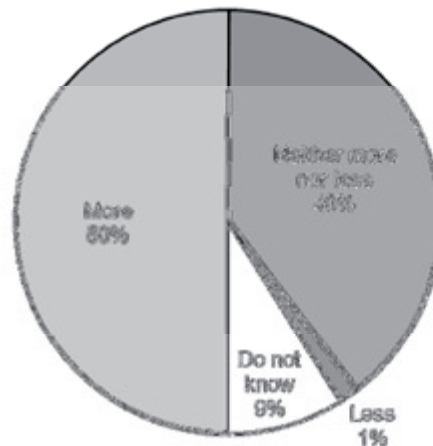


Chart 3.1 Should trade unions have more or less influence in the workplace? Per cent

	More	Neither more nor less	Less	Do not know
LO members	50	40	1	9
TCO members	44	42	2	12
Saco members	38	47	3	12
All employees	40	42	4	15

Trade union political cooperation

A narrow half of LO members, 48 per cent, are in favour of cooperation between LO and the Social Democratic Party, and consider that the cooperation should increase or remain unchanged. Out of all LO members, 20 per cent believe that the cooperation should increase and 28 per cent think it should remain unchanged. (See diagram 4.1)

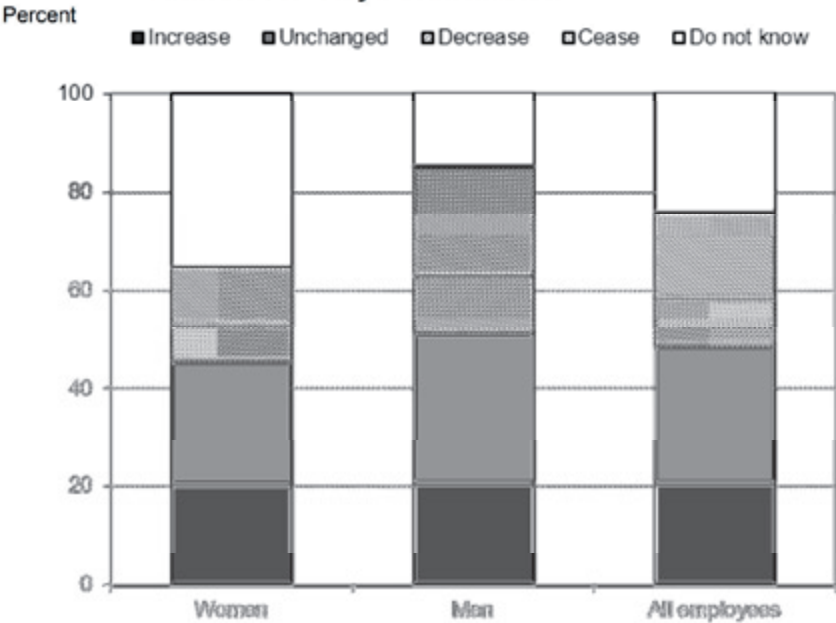
More than every fourth LO member (28 per cent) has a negative attitude to cooperation between LO and the Social Democratic Party, 10 per cent believe that it should decrease and 18 per cent that it should cease.

The remaining 24 per cent of LO members answered the question that they did not know. This is by far the largest proportion of the ‘do not know’ response to a single question in the survey. Moreover, the percentage of the ‘do not know’ response varies considerably between different response groups and years of the survey.

If we disregard all those who answered ‘do not know’, it appears that 64 per cent of those who hold a view consider that cooperation between LO and the Social Democratic Party should increase or remain unchanged, while 36 per cent believe it should be reduced or discontinued.

The approach to cooperation between LO and the Social Democratic Party has changed somewhat over time. However, it is mainly the proportion of those who responded ‘do not know’ that has varied. Distribution among those with an opinion has, on the other hand, not varied significantly. About 65 per cent considered that the cooperation should increase or remain unchanged throughout all survey years, with the exception for the year 1988, when the proportion was 73 per cent.

Diagram 4.1 Views on cooperation between LO and the Social Democratic Party. LO members.



Rapporten kan hämtas som pdf-dokument på LOs hemsida eller
beställas från LO-distribution:

lo@strombergdistribution.se

Telefax: 026-24 90 26

Mars 2012

ISBN 978-91-566-2892-4

www.lo.se

PÅ OMSLAGET:

Gunilla Mellgren, 46 år, Kommunal,

djurskötare vid Broströms Lantbruk AB i Haxäng, Brunflo

FOTO: Lars Forsstedt