



PERC Newsletter, August 2008

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<http://perc.ituc-csi.org>

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Georgia/South Ossetia: Time for Dialogue and Massive Humanitarian Effort

Brussels, 12 August 2008 (ITUC OnLine): The ITUC and ETUC welcome the announcement by Russia that it is now ceasing military operations in Georgia. It is imperative that all the parties involved stop armed hostilities immediately. Russia should withdraw its forces to the positions prior to 7 August, and the authorities on all sides must ensure that the urgent medical and humanitarian needs can be met without impediment. The UN's High Commission on Refugees estimates that more than 100,000 persons are refugees, with some 42,000 South Ossetians having been displaced into Russia or within South Ossetia and around 56,000 inhabitants of the city of Gori having been displaced to elsewhere in Georgia.

A complete cessation of fighting opens the possibility for dialogue to bring an end to the dispute, and the international community must do all it can to help create the conditions for this dialogue.

The ITUC's Russian and Georgian affiliates are in the process of assessing humanitarian needs, and the ITUC remains in close contact with them. Further to requests from these affiliates, the ITUC and ETUC are launching a humanitarian solidarity appeal to help meet the massive needs of those affected by the conflict.

The ITUC and ETUC also recognize the tremendous damage to vital infrastructure, including homes, factories and other facilities which has been done during this conflict, and calls upon the international community to be ready to fully assist in the necessary rebuilding and reconstruction.

To find more information on the solidarity appeal and humanitarian actions please consult the ITUC and ETUC web sites.

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***World Day for Decent Work:
The Slovak Confederation of
Trade Unions (KOZ SR)***

The Slovak Confederation of Trade Unions (KOZ SR) organizes the following activities for the World Day for Decent Work:

Conference under the title: "Present state, problems and perspectives in social dialogue in Slovakia" on 7th of October in Bratislava. The international conference will attend government representatives, employers representatives, experts from "old" EU member states, European social partners and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

KOZ SR recommended to its sectoral affiliates to organize on 7th October 2008 discussions with the employers' associations on the process of collective bargaining. Furthermore KOZ SR addresses trade union affiliates a request to organize, on October 7, similar discussions on the given issues with employers on trade union level

/KOZ/

***Decent Work, Decent
Life for Women
Campaign***

More affiliates join the Campaign: 82 National Centers in 56 countries are now taking part in the Campaign.
<http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?rubrique198>

Ø **ILO Convention 183 on maternity protection ratified in two more countries:** Luxembourg (April 2008) and Mali (June 2008) ratified ILO Convention 183 which makes a total of 15 countries who ratified ILO C183. One of the main aims of the Decent Work, Decent Life for Women Campaign is to lobby and advocate governments so a far greater number of countries ratified and implement ILC 183. In September a new brochure will be available on this topic.
<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/convde.pl?C183>

Ø **Croatia:** On 15 July 2008 the **Croatian parliament has approved a new gender equality law** that for the first time levies fines for discrimination based on sex. Trade unions, through their representation in the official national working group, were part of this process. The gender equality law aims to improve the situation of women by forbidding discrimination at work, in textbooks, in media or in politics. Employers are now forbidden to ask potential female employees whether they plan to have children -- a routine question that often reduced a woman's chances of getting the job. The new law also requires employers to provide equal wages and promotion opportunities. ITUC affiliates HUS, NHS and UATUC take part in the Decent Work, Decent Life for Women Campaign.

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PERC activities

**SEE Trade Union
Forum**

The Trade Union Way to the EU

The South Eastern Europe Trade Union Forum met on 16-17 of May 2008 in Sarajevo, with the participation of leaders of Trade Union Confederations from the countries of the region. The meeting was supported by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Regional office in Belgrade.

During its two-day session the SEE TU Forum was made familiar with the process of handover between the Stability Pact for SEE – Brussels and the Regional Cooperation Council –

RCC (www.rcc.int), with the seat in Sarajevo. The Forum was addressed by Ms. Mary O'Mahony, director Working Table II of the Stability Pact for SEE, Ms. Frosina Georgievska, Program coordinator of the ISC of the Stability Pact for SEE, Ms. Bruchez Brugger Georgette, Senior Advisor, DEZA SEE division and Ms. Jelica Minić, Deputy Secretary General of the RCC and Head of the RCC expert pool.

It was agreed that the SEE Trade Union Forum and the RCC will be cooperating in the fields of economic and social development and the development of human capital.

The meeting discussed, amongst others, the information and consultation procedures in SEE – opportunities and challenges for TUs – and the representation of workers interests at company level focusing on the EU Directive on the right on information and consultation of workers and the legislations on Works Councils in the region.

The SEE Trade Union Forum agreed to organize the next meeting on 30 of September and 01 of October 2008, in Zagreb, discussing the developments of the energy sector in the region and the SEE Trade Union Work program for 2009

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The PERC SEE Youth Network (SEEYN), supported by the ITUC, the ETUC, the ILO, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the LO-TCO Sweden, the Solidarity Center and national confederations in the SEE countries, developed since 2002 a number of regional and sub regional cross border trainings, seminars, workshops and conferences on organizing, employment, project management and other relevant topics for young trade unionists. During the last three years the PERC SEEYN members, supported by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) and the ITUC PERC SEE Office – Sarajevo, discussed on a number of regional youth activities the realization of a “dream”, as it was said by one of the SEEYN member, a regional campaign taking place at the same time in the countries of the SEE region, employing one and the same slogan in different languages of the region. This “dream” become real on 20th of June 2008, when for the first time since the recent wars in the SEE region trade union organizations have been able to successfully carry trough a common regional action programme when young trade unionists from Albania to Hungary, from Croatia to Romania pull together to fight against unemployment and for equal access to quality employment, social security, education and life long learning.

SEEYN members already start discussing possibilities for a follow up program, counting on the support of their national Trade Union confederations, the PERC, the EU, the FES and other Solidarity Support Organizations (SSO)

Numerous media (newspapers, radio and television) produced advanced reports about the campaign. A brochure in five languages will set out experience gained during the campaign and its results so far and a video documentary on how the campaign planning and the Action Day developed will be available in September 2008. For more information consult the website of the joint EU/FES project: www.seeynet.eu

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20 June: Action Day of Young Trade Unionists in South East Europe

“It’s Time – Against Youth
Unemployment and for Greater
Opportunities”





***Baltic Sea Trade Union Conference
on Special Economic Zone in
Kaliningrad Region***

<http://perc.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article106>

ITUC/PERC with support of Friedrich Ebert Foundation organized follow up conference on Kaliningrad Special Economic zone and TU Strategy in Svetlogorsk, Kaliningrad region of Russia on July 8-9, 2008.

Some 40 trade union leaders and activists from Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Ukraine, Finland, IUF, IMF shared their experience on Special Economic Zones in global perspective, activities of MNC's in the Baltic Sea region, trade union strategy on SEZ and further steps on development of social dialogue in the region.

Conference participants made the recommendation to intensify cooperation in the BASTUN framework and have closer coordination of our international support, in particular:

1. To collect data on SEZ and workers situation in the CEE region.
2. To initiate pilot TU organising program in Sovetsk district of Kaliningrad region.
3. To strengthen Kaliningrad TU participation in Baltic Sea regional TU structure.(BASTUN)
4. To make a real focus on organising (from words to the actions).
5. To fill the gap on basic education on TU rights in MNC's.

Upcoming events:

Discussion Forum

1-st PERC Summer School, Budapest, 1-3 September 2008

Youth

Council of Europe study session on Demographic changes, Strasbourg, 8-14 September 2008

Gender

The 9-th International Trade Union Women's School, Turin 27-29 October 2008

The Founding Conference of the PERC Women's Committee, Turin, 30-31 October 2008

Child Labour

Global March Against Child Labour, Sofia, 16-18 September 2008

You may be interested

***Gender courses in the
ILO Training Center
Turin***

<http://gender.itcilo.org>

The International Training Center of the ILO in Turin is organizing three training sessions this autumn on gender mainstreaming as an important component of the Decent Work Agenda of the ILO.

*Training of gender audit facilitators, 13-17 October 2008

*Mainstreaming Gender Equality: Concepts and Instruments, 3-14 November 2008

*An Introduction to Gender Budgeting in Organizations and Institutions, 17-21 November 2008

For more information and applications please consult the following web site: <http://gender.itcilo.org>

Project in the Balkans

ISCOS-Cisl has recently completed a regional project "The role of IFIs in the SEE Countries and European



Integration process: strategies for Trade Union movement" with partners from Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Croatia (supported by the European Commission), Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Albania. This initiative was aimed at increasing the capacity of trade union organizations in analyzing the economic and social impact on local labor markets of International Financial Instruments and European economic policies. National reports have been produced from this project in English and local languages. Should you be interested you can ask copies to Paola Simonetti: p.simonetti@iscos-cisl.org You can find the final evaluation report on the project on the PERC web site.

Project in Turkey

ISCOS-Cisl recently finalized the project on **Industrial Relations in Turkey and Trade Union Organizing**, supported by the European Commission. Aimed at strengthening the capacity of Turkish trade unions concerning internal organization, collective bargaining and methods of recruiting, training sessions addressed issues including European trade union representation systems, communication skills and strategy planning. Trainees successfully implemented actions to improve conditions in the workplace, with the results of this work to be disseminated during the final conference held in Istanbul in September 2007. You can download the final evaluation report here below.

For further information please contact Paola Simonetti p.simonetti@iscos-cisl.org



How to counteract shadow employment in Poland?

New Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE) publication You can download the publication at http://www.case.com.pl/upload/publikacja_plik/20799659_E-brief_June08_Walewski.pdf (CASE web-site)