

## PERC Newsletter, December/January 2009



*John Monks, PERC General Secretary*

### *Inside this issue:*

- 1. Message from the PERC General Secretary*
- 2. PERC activities*
- 3. News from affiliates*
- 4. Upcoming events*
- 5. You may be interested*

### *PERC Newsletter Editorial*

The ITUC General Council last month agreed that considerable progress has been made in the organizational development and activities of PERC, as well as the development of its profile in the European trade union context, during what was in effect the first full year of PERC's operations.

Through this Newsletter and our website we have tried to keep you fully informed of our expanding range of activities and we welcome your comments and reports.

Massive challenges await us all this year.

Everyone agrees that the world economic crisis will worsen in 2009, as can be seen in the daily reports of layoffs and restructurings. Job security will be further eroded as a result of the collapse of casino capitalism now spreading rapidly into the real economy.

And on top of the economic crisis that is affecting us all, we will be facing a range of issues specific to particular sub-regions or individual countries, including sometimes vicious attacks on the trade union rights we all hold dear. I hope that PERC will be able to assist in meeting those challenges.

I wish you all a Happy New Year in 2009!

*John Monks, PERC General Secretary*

## **PERC activities**

***European Seminar in Bucharest from 16 to 19 December 2008 on the “European Social Charter and the Right to Strike”.***



***The ACV/CSC together with PERC organized the European Seminar in Bucharest from 16 to 19 December 2008 on the “European Social Charter and the Right to Strike”.***

Some 25 participants from Center and Eastern European countries and Belgium took part in the seminar. The main issues under debate during the seminar were the legal framework of collective action, the typology of strike and the European jurisprudence on the right to strike. The organizers invited experts from ACV/CSC, EPSU, ETUI, MOSZ and Cartel ALFA. At the same time, the participants in the seminar presented concrete case studies on the right to strike in the CEE region and issued a statement on the importance of this fundamental right for all workers. Proposals have been made also for future activities that could be developed by PERC.

***Regional Working meeting for the SEE TU Legal Experts “Promotion and protection of labor rights in the national legislations of SEE countries in line with the international and European standards”, Montenegro, KOTOR (Trade union school- MUO), 3 – 5 December 2008.***



Following the conclusions of the SEE Trade Union Forum meeting held in Zagreb on 29-30 of September 2008, the ITUC-PERC SEE Office Sarajevo organized the Regional Working meeting for the SEE TU Legal Experts “Promotion and protection of labor rights in the national legislations of SEE countries in line with the international and European standards”, which was held in Montenegro, KOTOR (Trade union school- MUO), 3 – 5 December 2008. The participants- legal experts discussed the existing labor and social rights in their countries, actual reforms of social security systems in their countries, process of accession towards the EU and its challenges, they learned about Slovenian and Croatian TU experiences in that process, and formulated the conclusions on the promotion and protection of labor rights in the national legislations of SEE countries in line with the international and European standards. A future close cooperation between the legal experts from SEE TU and continuation of similar education in this issue is the most important for the participants. This group need to be a nucleus in TU of their countries for permanent follow-up of the EU integration processes  
/PERC SEE Office/

***11-th Baltic Trade Union Youth Forum, Estonia, 29-30 November***



The Baltic Trade Union Youth Forum takes place annually, 10 young trade unionists from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia participated there. This initiative was supported by Lithuanian TU Unification Youth Centre, LBAS (Latvian Confederation) Youth Section and EAKL (Estonian Confederation) Youth Commission. The main aim of the forum was to exchange information and co-ordinate activities as far as problem solutions of trade union youth and international projects are concerned. This year topic of the forum was Baltic trade union youth's position and participation in European structure. At the meeting the following speakers took the floor: Sander Vaikma, Chairman of The Association of the Estonian Energetic Workers Trade Unions one of the founders of Baltic TU's Youth Forum; Harri Taliga, Chairman of Estonian Trade Union Confederation and Anton Leppik, policy advisor from the PERC Brussels office. There were held group activities, mainly discusses what should change or renew in Baltic Trade Union Forum statue. It was decided that regular and informal contacts will be held in the social network.  
/PERC/

***ILO and ITUC PERC Project on "Evaluation of Trade Union Education", workshop with CATUS, 11 December, Belgrade***



The ILO and ITUC PERC initiated the project "Evaluation of Trade Union Education", which is a part of the ITUC general strategy whose orientations have been defined during the CEETUC conference in November 2005 and the PERC Program orientations, adopted by the PERC Assembly, held in March 2007, reaffirming the importance of education as a basis for trade union action. The CATUS joined the project in April 2007.

In the frame of the project an evaluation report on trade union education of CATUS was prepared that included all information collected by a questionnaire and trough interviews with the leaders, activists, trainers, as well as, information provided and discussed during the strategic workshop with CATUS that was held in December 2007.

Based on the discussion of the strategic workshop and evaluation report the ITUC and ILO joint forces in supporting a follow up strategic roundtable on: "Establishing of Education Strategy for CATUS", as requested by the organization. The roundtable was held on 11 of December 2008, in the CATUS (read more on [www.ituc-csi.org](http://www.ituc-csi.org) )

/PERC SEE Office/

## **Georgia**

***The Georgian Government and the Georgian Employers' Association and Trade Unions came to an agreement about future cooperation, working on social issues and the rights of workers***



The Georgian Government and the Georgian Employers' Association and Trade Unions came to an agreement about future cooperation, working on social issues and the rights of workers. The official document has been signed by the Georgian Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, Alexander Kvitashvili, President of Georgian Trade Unions Confederation Irakli Petriashvili, and Elguja Meladze, President of the Georgian Employers' association.

According to the agreement, the three organizations will have a permanent dialogue, meetings and sessions, to cover and solve problems related to healthcare for the employed, in the formal and informal sector, protection of health and safety conditions in the work place, and protection of both workers' and employers' interests and rights. The official tripartite document includes the responsibility to create an unemployment insurance system that doesn't yet exist in Georgia, also to make initiatives for pension system reforms and to work on a project that will help the tripartite dialogue cover different regions of the country.

Georgia's Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, Alexander Kvitashvili, said, "For us the most important issues are to develop our country's economy and educational system, to create job opportunities. We have many special programs for people, including additional training programs for workers of different fields, which we are starting very soon." ( see more on [www.ituc-perc](http://www.ituc-perc.org) ) /GTUC/

*Trade union education*

*Youth*

*Gender*

*ILO*

***PERC Executive Committee***

### ***Upcoming events:***

Evaluation of trade union education, Albania, 14-16 January

Labour education course for NIS, 16-27 February, Turin

Decent work for young workers in the Balkans, 23-25 January, Montenegro

PERC Women's Committee meeting, 25 February , Brussels

European Regional meeting, Lisbon, 9-13 February

**PERC Executive Committee meeting, 16 March, Brussels**

***ISCOS-CISL project on "Improving Gender mainstreaming within Trade Union Organizations in Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey"***



***You may be interested***

The project named "Improving Gender mainstreaming within Trade Union Organizations in Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey" aimed to support trade unions to create a debate about equal opportunities for women inside their organizations, so as to facilitate concrete actions within this sector. The focus was on two different levels: on the one hand, the exchange of good practices about bargaining on both national and territorial level, on the other, the political view towards the presence of women in trade unions. Activities took place in three seminars where representatives from partner organizations worked out action plans to implement within the frame and to support gender policy. ISCOS then created guidelines to support partner organizations in the process of gender policy.

Partners involved in the project were Istur-CITUB from Bulgaria, Cartel Alfa, CSDR, BNS, Fratia from Romania and DISK, KESK, HAK-Is, TURK- IS, CNI from Turkey ( read more on [www.perc-ituc-csi.org](http://www.perc-ituc-csi.org) )

[www.ifc.org/projects](http://www.ifc.org/projects)

The following proposed loans were posted to the IFC website since the last update:

1. May Tohumculuk Ziraat Sanayi Ticaret Ltd. Sti. (seeds) - Turkey
2. JSC Freight One (railways) - Russia
3. Palmet Enerji A.S. (gas) - Turkey

For more information, please search the project number provided here in the IFC projects database ([www.ifc.org/projects](http://www.ifc.org/projects)) or contact the Global Unions Washington Office.

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