**Memo on institutional partnership with the Council of Europe**

During the last PERC Women’s Committee meeting there was a discussion on the necessity to enlarge the collaboration of the PERC Women’s committee with different international institutions. The PERC has an excellent collaboration with the ILO, but this is mostly on a project basis. We also have projects funded by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the European Union, but we have no institutional "counterpart" in the way that the ETUC collaborates with the EU.

The PERC region covers the same 47 countries as the Council of Europe (<http://hub.coe.int/>), and there are many topics where we have common interests. **We therefore consider it strategically important to investigate the possibilities for a systematic collaboration with the Council of Europe.**

Co-operation with NGOs holding participatory status with the Council of Europe takes many forms, from simple consultation to full-scale co-operation on specific projects. NGO experts may participate in various projects as consultants; they may contribute to the work of intergovernmental committees on an institutionalized or ad-hoc basis, prepare memoranda for the Secretary General, make oral or written statements to the committees of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and address seminars and other meetings organised by the Council of Europe. NGOs enjoying participatory status also disseminate information about the Council of Europe’s aims and activities among their constituencies.

The NGOs enjoying participatory status with the Conference of NGOs meet four times a year in Strasbourg. Their work is structured around thematic committees and transversal groups. One of the thematic groups is **Equality, Diversity and Protecting the Rights of the Vulnerable:**

🞏 Protecting the Rights of the Vulnerable

🞏 Roma: protecting social inclusion and respect for human rights

🞏 Promoting Equality

🞏 Racism and Intolerance - ECRI

🞏 Minorities – National Minorities, Regional and Minority Languages

🞏 Threats to Human Dignity: Trafficking in Human Beings and Violence Against Women (GRETA)

🞏 Children’s Rights

**PERC as such cannot apply for participatory status within the Council of Europe, but its participation can be made possible through an application from the ITUC.** (See conditions on: <http://www.coe.int/t/ngo/particip_status_apply_en.asp> )

**The PERC Women’s Conference is asked to give the mandate to the PERC Women’s Committee to investigate together with the PERC secretariat the possibility to enjoy participatory status with the Conference of the NGOs of the Council of Europe, in order to participate in the thematic group on gender equality and diversity.**