

PERC Newsletter, July 2008

Editor in chief:
John Monks, PERC Secretary General
PERC team

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



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Dear Colleagues,

In line with the ITUC action day on 7 October 2008 – *WORLD DAY FOR DECENT WORK* – we are drawing your attention to the PERC activities which can facilitate the preparation of individual and joint actions to use the opportunity to raise your concerns and promote your policies within a broad global mobilization effort.

As announced already, following the decisions of the Executive Committee, the PERC will organise its Summer School/Discussion Forum in Budapest from 1 to 3 September where the issue of the actions on 7 October 2008 in the PERC region will be on the agenda. In the meantime, any ideas and proposals for their own or joint activities by PERC members are highly welcome and will be immediately put on the PERC website (<http://perc.ituc-csi.org>) and disseminated in the PERC Newsletter to inspire others.

Looking forward to a creative discussion in Budapest and effective actions on the *WORLD DAY FOR DECENT WORK*,

Yours fraternally,

PERC President Mikhail Shmakov
PERC General Secretary John Monks

World Day for Decent Work

Activities and actions undertaken by PERC affiliates



Leaflet for World Day for Decent Work is developed for the use of the FNPR affiliates and is available for download at:

<http://www.fnpr.org.ru/4/168/3927.html>

/FNPR/



The UATUC Croatia is actively preparing for the 7 October 2008 and it plans a number of activities, both at the national and regional level in Croatia, and both in the organization of the Confederation and its Youth Section.



Within the framework of the action „Decent Work – Decent Retirement” the National Commission is organizing a manifestation in Warsaw on 29th of August.

The UATUC is planning to hold a Round Table and press conference in Zagreb, on which they will present the results of the survey among most influential companies and employers in Croatia, evaluating them along the decent work criteria and principles, with a range of experts discussing the issue of decent work and its importance.

Furthermore, on 20 June 2008 the Youth Section of UATUC started a campaign within the South East European Youth Network, in which they opened up a Complaints Book, opened for youth and broader public to express in it freely and openly their dissatisfaction with the labor market policies, social and economic, education systems. It will be used as a kind of a survey on the positions of young in relation to the current policies, and a basis for trade union responses to these problems. The Complaints Book will be open for signing until 7 October when they plan to put copies of the leaves from the Book on the long rope which they will carry in the protest walk through Zagreb; on that day it will be delivered to the Croatian Prime Minister Mr. Ivo Sanader.

/UATUC/

The National Commission of NSZZ „Solidarnosc”, implementing its program declaration, decided to start the campaign “Decent Work – Decent Retirement” aimed at emphasizing that safe and decent work is the precondition for decent life and retirement, and that it has a direct impact on sustainable growth. The National Commission is of the opinion that internal demand inspired by constant increase of remuneration adds to the economic growth. The growth is also stimulated by investment in security and education of the workers and creation of a system eradicating unemployment and supporting proactive attitude of more and more people on the labor market. Therefore the National Commission of NSZZ “Solidarnosc” will continue its activities supporting decent work, increase of wages, and system solutions in the area of social security that perfectly match the ITUC and ETUC campaign “Decent work – decent life”.

/NSZZ Solidarnosc/

PERC activities

John Monks meets EU Commissioner Enlargement Ollie Rehn.

<http://perc.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article100>



On 28 May 2008 John Monks, General Secretary of ETUC and PERC met in the EU commission with the EU Commissioner Ollie Rehn and discussed current problems and perspectives for the role of the trade unions in the area of the policy of EU enlargement. J. Monks confirmed the support of the ETUC for the EU enlargement process its involvement in the Stability Pact for SEE, the role of the ETUC Balkans Trade Union Forum (since 2007 - SEE Trade Union Forum) and now the Pan-European Regional Council as a new structure overarching beyond EU borders and opening new perspectives for cooperation in the future. Commissioner Rehn underlined the importance of efficient social dialogue and active trade union role in the process and the engagement of the policy with promoting social dialogue and labour and social rights in the preparation for EU accession. Opinions were exchanged on the problems in particular situations and cases – the Western Balkans (especially Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina), Turkey,

Ukraine and the need to adjust EU assistance programmes in these areas to make them really accessible to local organisations without relying on external, Western partners as leading agents in the bids for projects.
/PERC/

Meeting of the Transitional Body of the PERC Women's Committee, 26 June, Brussels

<http://perc.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?rubrique4>

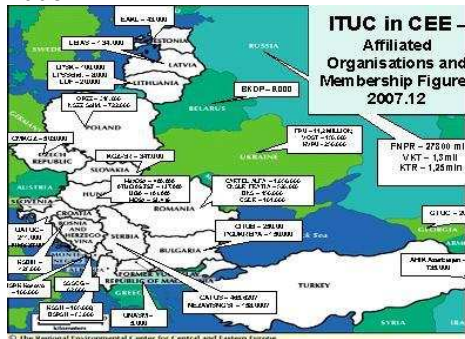


Following the approval by the PERC Executive Committee in March of the documents on the way forward with the PERC women's committee building a meeting of the PERC Women's Committee Transitional Body took place in Brussels on 26 June. The main tasks of the Transitional Body of the PERC Women's Committee were established and mainly: to organize the women's committee conference and the nominations and elections; to prepare the draft work program and to prepare a proposal about the future relationship between the new structure and the CEE/NIS Women's network.

The women's conference will take place on 30 and 31 October in Turin and will be linked with the 9-th International Trade Union Women's School which will take place on 27/29 October.

The women's conference will discuss and adopt the rules and terms of reference of the PERC Women's Committee, the work program for 2008/2009 and will elect the members of the PERC women's committee and the presidium.
/PERC/

Meeting on the CEE organizing network, in cooperation with the ETUI-REHS project on recruitment, Brussels, 29-30 May 2008



The meeting involved representatives of the PERC organization that have some experiences in the field of organizing, in particular, in Central and Eastern Europe. It continued the work initiated by the ICFTU in 2000 on building exchange of practices and experiences, however, with the new PERC dimension it has initiated the setting up of the PERC organizing task-force.

The second day of the meeting was organized jointly with the ETUI-REHS network, to ensure Pan-European dimension of the thematic discussions and to define certain priorities for further common activities.

The task force is an element of the PERC internal structuring and is meant to start developing policies that would guide the PERC in the field of organizing policies. The aim of the meeting was to map out different organizing initiatives run by national centers and to start fixing agenda for the task force.

<http://perc.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article81>

/PERC/



<http://perc.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article92>

Baltic sea Youth summer school, Palanga, Lithuania



Sectoral Collective Labor Agreements, Ohrid, Macedonia, 18-21 June



The workshop that discussed developments in framework of the CEE-NIS PERC/FNV Informal Economy project took place in Brussels, 24-25 June 2008. It assessed the national mapping programs implemented in Georgia, Serbia, Ukraine and Croatia and provided the partner organizations with opportunities for exchange and discussion of specific priorities and actions.

The four countries (Georgia, Croatia, Ukraine and Serbia) will finalize their mapping and present its outcomes to the leadership of their organizations, which will also discuss the draft action plans. Organizations from other countries (Montenegro, Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan) will use the general guideline for initiating mapping exercise. The PERC will start preparing two sub-regional activities – one in NIS on “Patterns of collective representation of workers from informal economy”, with delegates of the respective unionized groups, and one in SEE, on a base of advice from the South and Eastern Trade Union Forum.

/PERC/

On June 27 – July 3, 2008 4 the ITUC/PERC Trade Union Youth Summer School is taking place in Palanga, Lithuania. The event is organized by the ITUC/PERC with support of Friedrich Ebert Foundation and LO/TCO of Sweden. The summer school becomes a tradition as it is organized the fourth year in a row. 55 participants from North East Europe: Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, Russia and Belarus discussed 3 main topics during the school: Organizing, Subregional Cooperation and Information Work. The recommendations from the workgroups will be used for everyday trade union youth work in their countries and also for the activities of ITUC/PERC Youth Committee. The participants of the school invite young trade unionists from all over the world to solidarise with the Decent Work action day which will take place on October 7th this year.

/PERC/

The seminar was organized with the support of the Belgian ACV/CSC and financed by the Belgian Ministry of Labor.

Some 30 participants were present from UNASM, KSS (delegation led by Rasko Miskoski-President KSS and Dojtin Tvetanovski- President of the Teachers union), BSPK/Kosovo (president of BSPK and representatives of the police union of Kosovo) and representatives of Bulgarian unions.

Joris Van De Voorde from the international department of the ACV/CSC made a presentation on sectorial collective bargaining and the representative of the PERC on gender mainstreaming in collective bargaining and structure and priorities of the PERC for 2008. KSS made a presentation on the General collective agreement for the public sector negotiated between KSS and the Government; BSPK presented the draft Collective Agreement in Kosovo. Ministry of Labor of Macedonia was also present at the seminar together with the CERM /Macedonian Confederation of Employers. The Ministry of Labor was positive on supporting the trade union amendments to the Labor Law and the ILO has been asked also to give advice on changing the law.

/CSC, PERC/



Training on developing/submitting of project proposals for EU programs and project management for trade unions in the Western Balkans, 15-16 May 2008, Brussels

On 15-16 May 2008 in Brussels the first regional workshop on training for preparation of project proposals, submission and practical management of projects was carried out by the ETUI and ETUC experts for the PERC members in the Western Balkans. The workshop was part of the on-going project run by the Centre for Regional cooperation and EU integration in Zagreb and ETUI, supported by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development. The purpose of the workshop was to lay the basis for capacity for participating in EU assistance programmes in all PERC member organisations in the region and raise the efficiency of their activities using EU financial sources. The participants were introduced to the key sources of information about running or forthcoming calls for proposals in the EU programmes. The main principles, approaches and specific techniques in developing bids for EU financed projects as well as the challenges in their practical implementation on the ground were presented and discussed which was followed by an exercise to put together a first draft of a project proposal on a selected topic of gender equality policy. PERC policy will continue to pursue improved capacities for participation of the members in EU and other assistance programmes as important source of own initiative and better financing of activities.

/PERC/

PERC-Ruskin-ETUI joint seminar, Oxford, 2-4 July 2008



The PERC team participated in a joint seminar organized by PERC, Ruskin College/Oxford and ETUI which took place in Oxford from 2 to 4 July 2008. It was a good opportunity to review the PERC objectives and acknowledge the challenges PERC has to face in the future period. Joanna Cain, the Webb Institute Coordinator made a very useful presentation on developing leadership capacity in trade unions and the establishment of networks; Denis Gregory presented the trade union challenges linked with the climate change and Sue Ledwith, the Academic coordinator, presented the strategies for developing inclusivity for unions including organizing and self organization. PERC and the WEBB Institute for Leadership and Democracy at Ruskin College discussed areas of common interest in training trade union activists from Eastern Europe and possibilities for joint projects. PERC will assist the programs run at the college and the institute to find appropriate participants for the specialized courses for CEE.

For more information visit the website: www.ruskin.ac.uk/PERC/



The publication that summarizes the activities in framework of the “Promoting Young Workers Interests through Social Partnership Channels” project supported by the EU-IBPP TACIS program has been published. It can be downloaded (in Russian) at:

http://perc.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?rubrique39&var_mode=calcul

News from affiliates

«Gender mainstreaming: gender audit in the sphere of social partnership», Kiev 2-5 June 2008



The seminar «Gender mainstreaming: gender audit in the sphere of social partnership» took place from 2 to 5 of June in Kiev.

The seminar was attended by 40 participants: all regions of Ukraine were represented and also gender specialists, officers of socioeconomic and labor protection departments, chairpersons of primary organizations. The expert on gender and sub coordinator of the PERC Women's Network for North Europe, Tatyana Pashko, presented the project of FNPR/Russian Federation on «Gender audits in trade unions of Russia», which began in March 2007. Four gender audits were made in Vologda's federation of trade unions, primary trade union organization of mechanical engineering in the city of Kazan, federation of trade unions in republic of Karelia and federation of trade unions in Sverdlovsk's region. Very fruitful discussions took place also on methodology of gender audits, gender problems in different spheres of our life, such as education, economy and healthcare and gender equality as one of the fundamental ILO strategies to achieve decent work for all women and men.

/FNPR,FPU/



From the Declaration of the Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions (CMKOS) after the Warning Strike of 24th June 2008:

We thank trade unionists, employees and the public for their civic courage!

The 24th June 2008 will make its mark as the most massive strike protest. Over a million of trade unionists and employees of all professions, especially from health service, transport, industries, state administration, education, sent to politicians a clear message that they were not and would not be indifferent to the unfair reform steps of the Government. This biggest strike protest declared by the CMKOS has strongly reminded the Government that democracy does not mean just to go to voting polls every four years and then passively watch wrong steps of politicians, especially reforms which may put under risk the health of the citizens of the Czech Republic. The Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions thanks especially all those who took part in the strike or supported it by various forms, but also to sympathizers from the public, for their civic self-confidence and courage. Thanks for solidarity support belong also to our colleagues from fraternal trade union centres, the ETUC, ITUC, TUAC and other trade union organisations and bodies. Since April 2007, when the CMKOS for the first time published its expert analysis warning about negative impacts of certain reform intentions, nobody of responsible politicians has publicly and expertly refuted this prognosis. On the contrary - time proves us right. The reform steps negatively influence the development of inflation and the Government revealed its scenario of privatization of public services, especially the health care. The strike protest has clearly shown that Czech unions are a real force of the so needed balance which is necessary for democratic and civil society.

/CMKOS/



Decent Work of Parents – Key Component for Family Welfare and Struggle Against the Worst Types of Child Labour International Conference of the Global March Against Child Labour Moscow, 19-20 May 2008

<http://perc.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article101>

more information at www.globalmarch.org



On 21.06.2008 in Prishtina was held a Roundtable with main subject: “Discussion on Draft Law on Labour of Kosovo”, organized form Union of Independent Trade Unions of Kosovo (BSPK).

The International Conference was convened jointly by the Global March Against Child Labour and its partners - the New Perspectives Foundations, its Focal Point for Eastern Europe and the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FNPR) - with active participation of the ILO Sub-regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia There was a broad and constructive discussion on child labour problems, the necessity to fight this problem and measures to be taken to abolish child labour.

Representatives of 15 countries underlined that the Conference was an historic, important and unique step – the first activity of the GMACL conducted in Russia for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. It aimed to draw the attention of all partners committed to providing decent life to people, decent work to adults and a happy childhood to children.

Participants supported the growth of and cooperation within the global movement as one of the ILO's key measures in eliminating child labour. The social partners and in particular trade unions have played a key role in moving the child labour issue to the centre of the international agenda and have a unique role in organizing in workplaces and negotiating agreements to ensure that workplaces are free of child labour.

/FNPR, GMACL/

The Statutory Commission of the BSPK that is responsible for legislation in general introduced their objections, suggestions and recommendations regarding draft labour law, in order to incorporate these objections before this law will be approved in the Parliament.

In this Roundtable participated the BSPK leadership, some branch TU presidents, representatives of women structure of the BSPK, several legal experts, representatives of the Presidency Office of Kosovo, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, representatives of the civic society, representatives of the Association of pensioners of Kosovo and medias. On behalf of the ITUC- PERC SEE Office Sarajevo on the RT participated Ms. Enisa Salimoviç as a legal expert.

It was agreed that the BSPK Working group will collect all comments which were given in writing, as well as all discussions, and they will formulate the RT conclusions that will be addressed to the Commission for Legislation in Kosovo Assembly.

/PERC Sarajevo office/



The 5th Congress of the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine recommended all its affiliates:

- To strengthen the control of the labor relations between workers and employers;
- To increase the trade union role in solving labor conflicts and protecting workers' rights, including those covered by collective agreements, and others related to employment and illegal labor issues;
- To develop and implement the action plan to protect employees in the informal economy sector, etc.

Discussion Forum

Youth

Gender

Child Labour

IFC Loan Update: ECA region

www.ifc.org/projects

On 3 July the 5th Congress of the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine was held in Kiev. Having heard and discussed the KVPU Council report for the period from March 19, 2003 through July 3, 2008, it was recognized that the Confederation (KVPU) had consistently solved the problems, which had appeared in the labor sphere and social-labor relations. KVPU also helped the development of the trade union movement in accordance with its Constitutional responsibilities, protected the labor and socio-economic rights and interests of its members and conducted many efforts to strengthen its affiliates.

Besides the amendments to the Constitution some Resolutions were proposed and adopted by the Congress:

On organizing strengthening measures for the KVPU and its affiliates; On decent wages for Ukrainian workers; On the labor code of Ukraine; On social dialogue; On occupational health and safety in Ukraine; On the violation of labor rights; On the protection of workers, involved in the informal economy; On youth activity; On measures to eliminate the worst forms of child labor."

Mykhaylo Volynets was unanimously elected for 5 years as KVPU Chairman.

/KVPU/

Upcoming events:

1-st PERC Summer School and Discussion Forum, 1-3 September, Budapest

Council of Europe training on Demographic Changes, 8-12 September, Strasbourg

9-th Women's School, 27-29 October, ILO Turin
PERC Women's Committee Funding Conference, 30-31 October, ILO Turin

Regional Conference of the Global March Against Child Labour, 16-18 September, Sofia

You may be interested

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

1. Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank - Kyrgyz Republic
2. Raiffeisen Bank Aval (to support investments in agriculture and forestry) - Ukraine
3. Uzbek Leasing International A.O. (industrial and machinery leasing)- Uzbekistan
4. MagnaVita Holding A.D (animal feed) - Serbia
5. Vicat Group/ Jambyl Cement Company - Kazakhstan
6. AES Geo Energy (St. Nikola Wind Farm) - Bulgaria

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

/Global Unions Washington Office/

