

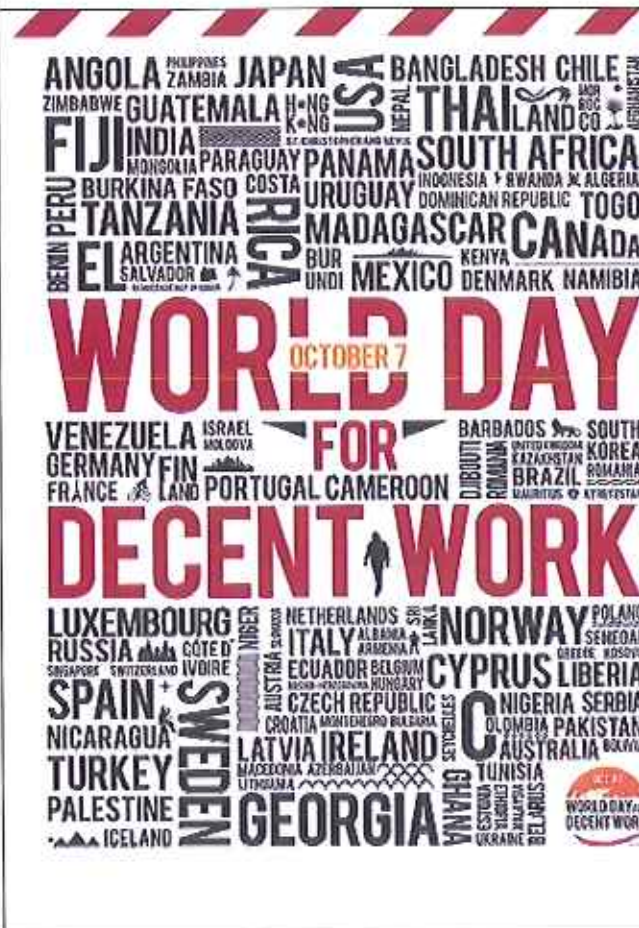
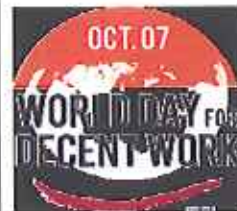
PERC Newsletter, August/September 2010

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PERC activities



Trade unions across the world are mobilising on 7 October to tackle the global economic and employment crisis and demand fundamental reform of the world economy. The organisers of more than 300 activities have already posted information on their events onto the special website <http://www.wddw.org>

This year's actions will be promoting three central demands for economic recovery:

- *Growth and decent jobs, no to austerity, are essential to beating the crisis and ending poverty.*
- *Quality public services must not be slashed and,*
- *The financial sector must pay for the damage it has caused.*

SEND US YOUR MATERIALS

It is very important that you send us (as soon as possible on the same day it happens!) your photos, videos, podcasts,

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| | <p>radio shows or any other materials that records what happened during the World Day for Decent Work. Please send the materials to: wddw@ituc-csi.org</p> |
| <p>EUROPEAN TRADE UNION DAY OF ACTION ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2010</p> <p>More than 100 000 WORKERS DEMONSTRATED IN BRUSSELS</p>  | <p><i>The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), in reaction to the austerity measures in force in a number of European countries organized a major European mobilisation on 29 September, with support from all its member organisations. Around 100 000 people took to the streets in Brussels and protest actions were held in different European countries.</i></p> <p><i>Link to the page dedicated to the European Day of Action : http://www.etuc.org/a/7407</i></p> |
| <p><i>The third PERC Summer School - Conference "20 years of transformation. What next?"</i></p>  | <p>The third PERC Summer School took place in Vienna, 15-17 September 2010 as a Pan-European Conference: "20 years of transformation. What next?". The conference was organised jointly with the OGB in the headquarters of the organisation. The event attracted the attention of trade unions in Europe with a record of more than 200 registrations – leaders, activists and veterans from the period. The conference was warmly welcomed by the President of the OGB, Erich Foglar and honoured by the General secretaries of ITUC, ETUC, PERC, EMF, the head of TUAC as well as high level speakers – K. Tapiola (ILO), EU Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs L. Andor, the Minister of labour of Austria Dolf Hundstorfer , the governor of the Austrian National Bank and prominent academics and actors in the field – Prof. M. Uvalic, D. Vaughan Whitehead (ILO), Prof. Heribert Kohl, F. Hantke, Prof. J.</p> |



Vilroxx. Major contributions were made by current leaders and experts, particularly from CEE trade unions as well as some former trade union leaders – Prof. Krastyo Potkov, Sandor Nagy.

The occasion for the conference was a similar strategic event held by ICFTU in 1990 in Vienna to discuss the future changes in Europe and the role of the trade unions in the transformation process. The aims of the current event were to mark this anniversary and to take stock of the experiences in the transformation period. Also to critically approach achievements and unrealised expectations, and draw insights about the complex logic and mechanics of the reform policies, how it shapes the role of the trade unions. And finally to see the current strategic challenges and trade union approaches to the current crisis in view of the lessons of the lessons of the past.

The work of the conference was focused on three strategic dimensions of the transformation period:

- The shaping of the economic, social and political context and content of the transformation process as a project of massive social engineering, i.e. the enabling and (more) constraining factors in the IMF imposed “model of change” that draws the boundaries of the “action field” for trade union and social policies;

- A critical and self-critical assessment of the ideas and realities of development of labour relations systems, the political systems and democratic processes, particularly in CEE countries. How much the trade unions were able to enter these interactions and contribute its



guidance of the reforms and avoid being too often recipient of policies. The uneasy questions of the search of political allies, more often falling short of expectations, has been addressed, particularly in view of the inefficiency of political parties of all shades to develop a viable alternative to the neoliberal philosophy of the reforms, based on IMF/WB policies.

-Building on the debates and lessons on the two dimensions above to see the real options for short and longer-term strategy orientations of trade unions on all levels in facing the challenges of the current crisis following its dramatic impact on employment and incomes of the working people, on the public sector and public services in particular. Trade union leaders on international and European level as well as TUAC presented their views about key policy directions to be pursued and the possible steps to be taken along these lines.

The conference was characterised by very energetic, open and honest debates trying to go deeper in the understanding of the complexities of the challenges and to realistically assess the advantages and shortcomings of trade union policies. The presentations from the conference can be found on the PERC Website - <http://perc.ituc-csi.org/> and PERC secretariat will prepare a compilation of the main contributions at the conference and make them available as proceedings of the conference.

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***The second meeting of the ITUC PERC
HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS
NETWORK, Bucharest 9-10 September***



On 9 and 10 September 2010, the European Network for Human and Trade Union Rights, which was set up in Bratislava on September 2009 met in Bucharest, Romania. This meeting aimed presenting the HTUR activities carried out throughout the year within the region and discuss major human and trade union rights issues to be tackled in the region for drawing up of the future PERC HTUR Action plan. The seminar was organised and facilitated by the ITUC HTUR department and the PERC Secretariat with the support of Romanian affiliates. There were 37 participants (17 women) from 26 affiliated organisations and 2 from associated organisations coming from 20 countries of the PERC region as well as 2 representatives from European federation (EPSU) and European office of International Global Union Federation (ICEM). Organizers emphasised the need to continue the work which began in Bratislava and to strengthen the PERC HTUR Network especially in terms of autonomy, solidarity and contribution to the ITUC HTUR work. They recalled that the PERC HTUR Network could also be a tool to contribution to the development of trade unions policy and stabilization. Overall, since September 2009, the PERC HTUR Network has been established and strengthened through sub regional meetings and the set up of communication tools. Participants were asked to reflect on the need and utility of such tools and activities. Each participant had then the opportunity to present the HTUR activities carried out as well as the prominent problems trade unionists were facing in their country. They all stressed the importance of human and trade union rights on the ground.

More info on PERC web site:

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| | <p>http://perc.ituc-csi.org/</p> <p>HTUR/NT/</p> |
| <p><i>The third meeting of the SEE Network of Economic and Legal Experts,</i></p>  | <p>The trade union legal and economic experts from the trade unions in Serbia (SSSS, UGS Nezavisnost), Croatia (SSSH, NHS, and HUS), Macedonia (SSM and KSS), Montenegro (SSCG), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (KSBiH) participated in the meeting organised in the framework of the LO-Norway financed project "Contribution of trade unions to the reforms of pension systems". They briefly presented their pension systems in their respective countries, the reforms contacted so far, as well as positions of trade unions related to reforms, that is, the opinion of trade unions on adequacy and sustainability of pension systems. Mr. Martin Hutsebaut – EU expert and tutor in the Project presented the Strategy and priorities of EU 2020, as well as priorities for the modernization of pension policies in Europe: adequacy of pensions, sustainability, mobility, and transparency. The guests in the meeting were: Ms. Dženana Pavlinović – Olof Palme International Center for BiH, and Mr. Patrik Bergvall – LO TCO. Following the short national presentations, the participants raised common concerns of all trade unions in the region: role of the World Bank and sustainability of the pension system. More information on the PERC web site: http://perc.ituc-csi.org/</p> <p>/Sarajevo office/</p> |

Youth study session on migration, Strasbourg, 21-25 September



A week-long study session on migration took place in Youth Centre of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, 21-25 of September. It involved some twenty young unionists from different countries of Europe.

During the study session the participants were introduced to the ITUC, the ETUC and the ILO work on migration, discussed the challenges that migration processes raised for national and international trade union movement, analyzed in depth specific "situations" involving migrant workers, in a form of role playing and drafted a declaration to be submitted to the next meeting of the ETUC Youth Committee.

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Upcoming events:

World Day for Decent Work

7 October

Conference on Breaking Gender barriers to youth employment

14 and 15 October, Warsaw

PERC CEE& NIS Women's Network School

24 and 25 November, Brussels

PERC Women's Committee Conference

26 November, Brussels

You may be interested

ITUC/HTUR



The ITUC HTUR department is kindly asking all affiliates **follow-up within their organization** to this request to ensure the ITUC HTUR department receives adequate and timely information on trade union rights violations that have occurred during the year 2010. If appropriate, the department would also appreciate

ITUC Annual Survey of violations of trade union rights

A circular (n°40) has been sent in September to all affiliates regarding the request for information on violations of trade union rights for the next Annual Survey to come out in 2011 (covering the year 2010). This circular includes documents to report violations of trade unions rights (a document outlining the content of the information needed and a reporting form to report cases of trade union rights violations in 2010).

it if the affiliates could circulate this reporting form to their own affiliates, asking them to reply.

Please note that the final deadline to report cases of violations of trade unions rights is the first week of January 2011 at the latest; however we would be grateful if affiliates could already send information from now on so it can be processed.

This year again the department stressed how important the assistance of the ITUC affiliates was in ensuring a reliably sourced, comprehensive and timely annual survey.

Within the HTUR department, Nadine Thevenet is in charge of liaising with PERC on HTUR issues (email: nadine.thevenet@ituc-csi.org / tel (direct): +32 (0)2 224 03 10).

/HTUR/NT

On 3-4 December 2010, an ITUC-PERC Regional Conference “Building democracy and trade union rights in New Independent States (NIS)” will be held in Moscow.


The aim of this conference is to facilitate the work in the field of trade union rights in the region and to outline priorities and perspectives for future work as well as to identifying the challenges, the resources and allies to meet them. The conference will be organised in two parts: the first day will be public, with open discussions on trade union rights issues. The second day will be an internal trade union workshop concentrating on trade union strategies.

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ITUC Moscow Office Director vacancy

The ITUC opened the recruitment procedure to fill the position of the ITUC Moscow Office Director. The job description can be downloaded from the ITUC web site: <http://www.ituc->

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| | <p>csi.org/</p> |
|  A photograph showing a man in a white t-shirt and a white cap with a logo, speaking into a megaphone. He is standing in an outdoor courtyard area with a building in the background. A group of people is visible in the distance, some holding a blue banner. | <p>VILNIUS OFFICE</p> <p>Sergejus who worked in our office in Vilnius started his new job in the ILO Moscow. We thank him for so many years of dedicated work in favour of trade unions in the region and are looking forward to cooperate with him in his new job.</p> |
| <p><i>IFC loan update</i></p> | <p>The following proposed loans were posted to the IFC website since the last update:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. LLC Confectionery Plant Amiri - Tajikistan2. Armeconombank - Armenia3. Alternatif Bank, A.S. - Turkey4. Sakarya Elektrik Dagitim A.S. - Turkey <p>For more information, please search the project number provided here in the IFC projects database (www.ifc.org/projects) or contact Global Unions' Washington Office.</p> <p>Francesca Ricciardone ITUC/Global Unions - Washington Office 888 16th Street NW, suite 400 Washington, DC 20006 Phone: 202-974-8121 Fax: 202-974-8122 E-mail: fricciardone@globalunions-us.org</p> |