

PERC Newsletter, January 2009

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National tripartite seminar, Minsk (Belarus)

The final seminar document was the Action Plan of the Government of Republic of Belarus for implementation of the ILO recommendation. "We evaluate the adopted Action Plan as an optimal one. The most important merit of this document is that it has established a certain body which will monitor the implementation of the ILO recommendations and perform the observance over the respect of trade union rights in the country. We wish that its activities were successful and efficient" – said Alexander Yaroshuk

On January 20-23, 2009 national tripartite seminar was held in Minsk (Belarus). It was organized by the ILO jointly with the Government of Belarus. The aim of the seminar was to evaluate how the ILO Commission of Inquiry recommendations adopted in 2004 are being implemented today by Belarus Government.

At least 150 people representing three sides of social partnership (government, employers and trade unions) took part in it. From trade union side there were 55 persons and 20 of them represented independent trade union movement of Belarus. The most important feature of the event was the participation of high ranking officials from the international organizations in it. Together with the ILO expert group headed by the ILO Executive Director Kari Tapiola the seminar were attended by Guy Ryder - General Secretary of International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) - and Emmanuel Julien – member of Governing Body of the International Organization of Employers (IOE).

During the seminar the most significant problem became apparent: it is the lack of a mechanism that could ensure proper observance over the implementation of the ILO recommendations - in the legislation and practice (more information on www.bkdp.org and www.perc.ituc-csi.org) /PERC/

Latvia

LBAS: “Our society has lost the patience”



Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia (LBAS) took part in a big demonstration on 13 of January in Riga.

The President of LBAS was invited to address the people of Latvia during the meeting. In his speech Peteris Krigeris emphasized the key role of trade unions, the importance of constructive social dialogue, decent work and decent wage, decent social guarantees and fair attitude towards every worker, every citizen of Latvia. At the end of his speech he delivered the solidarity message from Pan-European Regional Council (PERC) to the people.

According to LBAS provisional data about 12 000 people participated at the protest meeting.

Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia (LBAS) condemns provocative disturbances in Riga after the protest action organized in Dome Square 13 January 2009; pointing out that such kind of activities at the same time indicates the spirit of the society. LBAS also hopes that authorities will not use this incident as a reason to limit democracy in future.

/PERC/LBAS/

Lithuania

Mass demonstration in Vilnius on 16 January



Peaceful demonstration against government poverty policy started on Friday at noontime near the Parliament of Lithuania, organized by the Lithuanian Trade Union Coordinating center (the cooperation of 3 national trade union centers: Lithuanian Trade Union Confederation (LPSK), Lithuanian Trade Union “Solidarumas” and Lithuanian Labor Federation). Approx. 10,000 people from all over Lithuania had gathered for the demonstration. The demonstrators had marched slowly from the parliament square towards the Government building, holding the flags and banners, blaming the authorities for lowered wages, increased unemployment, bigger taxes.

Next to the government building the manifestation was held, where trade unionists and civil activists made speeches condemning the reforms of new government. Meeting ended peacefully. Similar demonstrations took place in other biggest Lithuanian cities. During the manifestation some turbulent groups used the event to create disturbances and chaos.

In the evening the Lithuanian Trade Union coordinating center made a public statement meant to distance from rioters. The Prime Minister A.Kubilius officially blamed Trade Unions in sparking unrest. At the same time he promised to strengthen the dialog with Trade Unions.

/PERC Vilnius office/



Extraordinary cooperation of workers and employers in the Baltic Sea Region



Financial strategies

crisis: union

As General Secretary of both Pan-European Trade Union Council (PERC) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) John Monks declared: *'The neo-liberal policies pursued by the governments of Latvia and Lithuania don't address the interests of working people and will exacerbate social tensions. It will also fuel the turmoil caused by insufficient social dialogue and lack of public control over financial and economic policies, and would undermine the trust in public institutions, precisely when critical situations facing the national economies in both countries demand to be dealt-with through national consensus and negotiation. We share the indignation of Lithuanian and Latvian workers and strongly support the public statements made by our Baltic members. What we need right now, is a New Social Deal throughout Europe to act on jobs, to help people in the labor market who have precarious jobs, and to stop regular jobs becoming more precarious.'*
/ETUC/

The "Baltic Sea Labour Network" (BSLN) is a new 2.7 million Euro, 3 year project involving 27 partners from 10 different states. It is financed by the INTERREG IVB Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 which strives to make the region an attractive place in which to invest, work and live. According to the project manager Katariina Röbbelen-Voigt, the BSLN is something extraordinary. 'Never before workers, employers, politicians and governments joined their forces in such a transnational initiative in the Baltic Sea region. We have come to a conclusion that despite many actors there is not an overall understanding on labour markets in the region. Therefore, an initiative of transnational coordination between trade union bodies, business organizations, politicians and governments is crucial'.

To achieve these goals the BSLN is creating a network to identify improvements of or viable alternatives to existing policies, promote research on challenges in the region's labour market, and facilitate interaction among non-governmental organisations, politicians, public officials and experts.

The transnational project work started on 25 November 2008 with a tripartite Forum on Mobility of Labour in Copenhagen which examined the issue of the movement of workers between states in the region.

/BSLN/

Upcoming events:

6 February , Baltic unions ' meeting , Brussels

ILO

Trade union education

Migration

Gender

Youth

PERC Executive Committee

9-13 February, European Regional meeting, Lisbon

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

16-17 February 2009 PERC-FES migration meeting, Brussels

25 February , PERC Women's Committee meeting, Brussels

28 February, Transitional Youth Committee meeting, Cyprus

16 March PERC Executive Committee meeting, Brussels

ITUC project “Decisions for Life”



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You may be interested

DECISIONS FOR LIFE aims to promote formal employment and equal opportunities at the labor market. It targets adolescent female workers and job seekers. The project's main objective is to raise awareness amongst these young female workers concerning future employment opportunities and career possibilities, family building, and the work-family balance. *DECISIONS FOR LIFE* focuses on 14 developing countries, notably Brazil, India, Indonesia, the CIS countries Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and the southern African countries Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. It targets adolescent women in the service industries. The project will deploy two mutually reinforcing approaches. The main activities will be trade union campaigns in 12 of the 14 countries, including in face-to-face meetings and training sessions, and dissemination of offline materials. Second, the Internet is used to target these occupational groups, aiming to reach one million women online.

/ITUC/

