

## PERC Newsletter, March, April and May 2011

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***PERC Activities***

***PERC Executive Committee, 7-th March, Brussels***



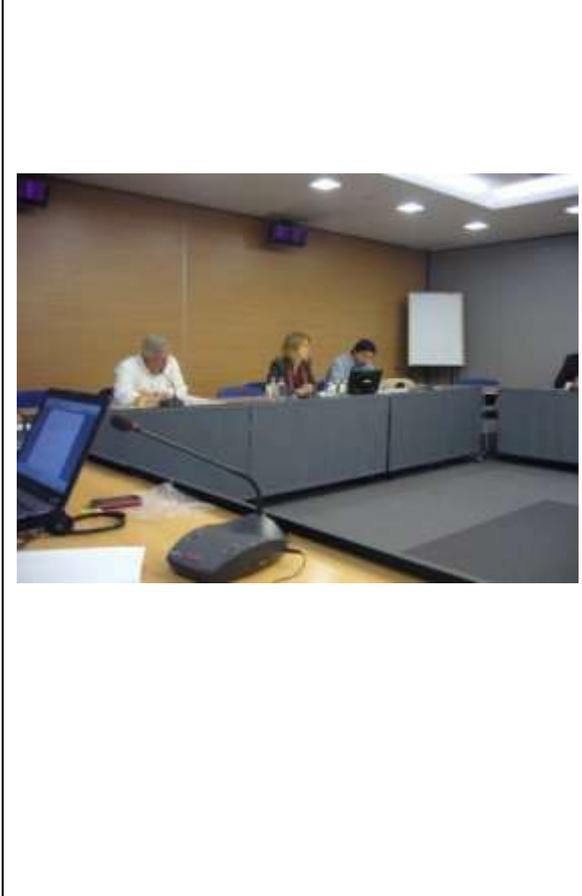
Annual meeting of the PERC Executive Committee took place in Brussels, 7 March 2011. The Executive Committee discussed the communications from the ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow and the PERC General Secretary John Monks, debating the evolution of economic and trade union situation in different European countries. In particular, it focused on the situation in Central and Eastern European countries, on the erosion of social dialogue and the initiative of the governments (under pressure of employers, first of all, foreign investors, IMF or the EU) change labour laws regardless opinion and actions of unions. The austerity measures in many countries of Europe faced a high level of workers' resistance and the European mobilisations took place on 9 April in Budapest, Hungary and Belgium. The meeting also discussed the relevance of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum to the union agenda and principles and found out that the current organisation of the Civil Society Forum did not provide proper space and platform for social partners, being a club of grant-funded NGOs. Sandy Boyle, President of the European and Economic Committee External Relations section reported about the EESC dissatisfaction with this situation and the measures it was undertaking to correct it. Laurent Vogel from the European Trade Union Institute reported about occupational health and safety policy frameworks and ETUI activities and several participants completed the picture by presenting their national situations. The financial and activity reports from the PERC and its

	<p>Women's and Youth were adopted and trade union rights network activities and challenges were presented by Steven Benedict, ITUC HTUR Director. In particular, growing flexibilisation and spreading of the system of fixed term contracts, often short-term contracts (and other arrangements, including agency labour, informal relations etc.), non-respect of TURs (and often national legislation) by the multinational companies, cumbersome legislative provisions for union setting, bargaining and industrial actions and the emerging phenomenon of trafficking for labour exploitation phenomenon were mentioned. The Executive Committee took note of the developments in Belarus, following the elections in December 2010, reported by Aleksandr Jaroshuk, President of the BKDP, as well as the situation at Glodeni factory in Moldova reported by IUF. It approved the working plan for the next period and set up the date for the 2nd General Assembly, which will take place on 6 December 2011, in Brussels. The meeting was chaired by the PERC President Mikhail Shmakov. /PERC/</p>
<p><b><i>Meeting with international secretaries of PERC affiliated organisations, 30 March, Brussels</i></b></p> 	<p>In accordance with the work plan the PERC organised a meeting of international secretaries of PERC affiliated organisations that took place in Brussels on 30 March 2011. The meeting brought together some 30 participants. The meeting discussed priorities and action plans of the ITUC and PERC in the region. Tim Noonan, ITUC campaigns and communication Director, introduced different ITUC campaigns: Play Fair on sport events, "We expect better" from Deutsche Telekom, Youth organizing campaign and plans for the "World Day for Decent Work" Stefan Clauwaert, legal expert of the ETUI, presented the work related to the European Social Charter and the reporting cycle the unionists could use to point out infringements of its provision in their countries to the Council of Europe. Nadine Thevenet, from the ITUC HTUR department, informed about the work related to the ILO, its annual conference and the request to the affiliates in that regard (reporting obligations in frame of the Committee of Experts work and the debates on a new standard on Domestic work). The PERC staff introduced the project work on European and sub-regional level, informing about activities included in the PERC work plan and the actions the PERC is considering in relation to the Civil Society Forum of the EU Eastern Partnership in accordance with the decision of the PERC Executive Committee. /PERC/</p>
<p><b><i>HIV/AIDS AND OSH management systems, PERC/ILO ACTRAV seminar, Moscow, 5-6 April</i></b></p>	<p>The seminar on "HIV/AIDS and OSH management system: trade unions role and objectives" took place in Moscow on April 5-6. It was organized by the Pan-European Regional Council of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-PERC) and the ILO Decent Work Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. It brought together national trade union leaders, labour inspectors and occupational safety specialists from the New Independent States (NIS) as well as international experts. "The epidemic that is</p>



affecting people of the most employable age and that has already affected dozens of millions of people all over the world, including our region, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, cannot be a purely medical problem. This is the problem of the whole society and it should be resolved through active involvement of public organizations, including trade unions,” Mikhail Shmakov, the Chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia and the ITUC-PERC President, said in his opening remarks. After two-day discussions participants in the seminar started their teamwork to take trade unions’ common stand on HIV/AIDS and the world of work and OSH at the national and sectoral levels and in the workplace. The seminar concluded with a number of recommendations. In particular, participants proposed to create a regional trade union coordination council on HIV/AIDS in the workplace and engage in the development and implementation of national programs on HIV/AIDS and the world of work. They also called for using opportunities of tripartite and collective agreements to implement the requirements of Recommendation No.200 and opportunities of trade unions’ training centres to hold trainings on HIV/AIDS and occupational safety and health.

***High level trade union meeting on Eastern Partnership, Brussels, 11 May***



The PERC, with the support of the FES, has organized a two day high level trade union meeting to debate the Eastern Partnership opportunities and challenges. The meeting was greeted by the ITUC DGS Jaap Wienen and FES policy officer Stephanie Ricken. The debate followed the decision of the PERC Executive Committee to challenge the framework of the EaP Civil Society Forum and to explore a joint approach with the Economic and Social Committee of the EU to modify or to set up a new framework for meaningful participation of trade unions from the six Eastern countries and from the EU member states.

PERC Executive Secretary introduced the perception of the EaP by the PERC. The concern of the PERC members lies in the fact that while the EU association envisage transfer of the EU practices and frameworks in economic and trade areas, particularly through development of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, the transfer of social and industrial is not part of the story so far. The social partners and other civil society organizations do not have access to policy decision making and often are consulted for the sake of the consultation process itself. The Civil Society Forum is basically functioning as a closed club of think tanks and non-representative NGOs and social partners do not find a proper place in its structures. The same is replicated on the level of the national platforms: the agenda is being dominated by the NGOs, which are in many cases have project driven interests towards the European Union.

Ms Claude Véron-Réville, Deputy-Head of Division 'Eastern Partnership, Regional Cooperation and OSCE'

presented the EU commission priorities, announcing in particular that the EaP summit will address the evolution on its meeting in Warsaw, 29-30 of May. She informed that the CSF is not a full partner in the 4 platforms of the EaP because not all of the participating countries are for it. She noted that there is a certain progress on bilateral level, in particular, with Ukraine and Moldova, with the association agreements being negotiated.

Mr. Sandy Boyle, President of the EESC External Service, informed about the position the EESC was going to take on Civil Society Forum functioning. It basically is similar to the PERC assessment. The CSF has not adhered to the initial concept and is a kind of “self-perpetuating” model of think tanks and NGOs. The EESC has initiated revision process with the EU Commissioner Fule, underlining the four major sets of reforms: 1) the need to have better presence of the EU member states organisations, 2) the need to allocate at least 3 seats for the EESC in the CSF steering group, 3) the need of at least 12 places as quota in the CSF, 4) in case the CSF is not changed, the need to set up a separate body for the social partners. He also informed about the EESC position on bilateral dimension: all the negotiated agreements imperatively must have labour rights dimension, any bilateral agreements must adhere to the ILO standards.

MEP Marek Siwiec of the PES presented the debates on the EaP in the European Parliament. He noted that there is certain progress, particularly in terms of stability, in the region; however, differentiated approach is needed. Taking into account recent events in Belarus, after the Presidential elections, the cooperation between the Parliaments will not include the parliament from that country, however, a special EaP working group will continue. On specific situations in other countries, he noted the deficiency in quality of democracy in the region, domination of the soviet mentality and appreciation of “strong hand rulers” that basically hinders the democratization processes.

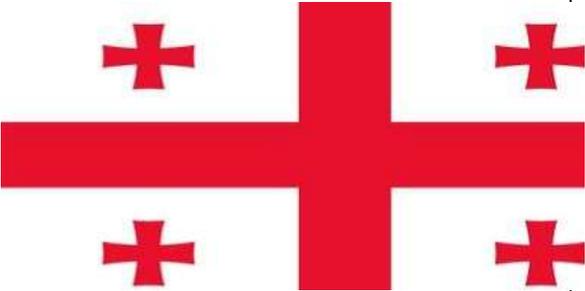
The participants then met with the Steering Committee of the CSF. The meeting with the TUs was preceded by the one with the head of the External Relations Section of the EESC. It obviously has been an intensive encounter however without any signals for real progress towards our common position.

The meeting with the trade unions developed along similar line with comparable outcomes. TU position stated the importance of CSF and the expectations to use it for advancing labour and social rights in the region. It was opened towards cooperation with other civil society actors to reinforce each other’s efforts. At the same time the operation of the Forum so far have been largely disappointing:

	<p>o The underlying principles of the whole construction have deviated from the original logic and approach of the Communication of the European Commission.</p> <p>o Current set of structures and procedures actually deters and does not allow real access to the policy process. The recommendations do not seem to have information value and definitely zero political impact.</p> <p>o Additionally the selection procedures and internal arrangements/elections in the CSF are creating tensions and marginalization of labour and social rights as policy areas, respectively social partners, EESC as representatives for advancing these rights. They could be even counterproductive – example presence of the leader of Belarusian official unions in the CSF.</p> <p>o The committee was informed of the PERC decision that if these conditions persist the unions will reconsider the need to continue their participation and with EESC and the employer organizations will look for setting up alternative channel for involvement in the EaP. It was underlined that this endangers “competition” between the possible two civil society structures and this hardly will be an appreciation of the work of CSF.</p> <p>It was underlined that TUs are ready to work together with the Steering Committee and CSF members to remedy the situation and provide to social partners real chance to deliver in the policy making process of the CSF and in the arrangements of the Committee itself. This will improve efficiency of the overall operation.</p> <p>The Committee presidents acknowledged the problems and underlined the difficulties they are facing to deal with it. The committee has been conducting heated discussions inside but so far no real outcome and the questions are still pending. The reactions of the presidents were politely bureaucratic within the perimeter of preserving the status quo. The arguments put forward indicated clear lack of preparedness to address the complicated situation bordering on incompetence and basically only gave further proof to the concerns and proposals of the unions.</p> <p>The final line was that the Committee will continue to look into the matter and keep us informed. The feeling of the trade union representatives was not to expect any major positive shifts towards our position.</p>
<p><b>Meeting of legal and economic experts of SEE, Ohrid, 11-12 May</b></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 that took place in OHRID, Macedonia, 11 -12 May 2011.</p> <p>Ms. Siri Relling – LO Norway, presented the</p>

	<p>achievements of the Project and project plans for the next steps. Mr. Eystein Gjelsvik presented the Pension system in Norway – financing, conditions for retirement and system functioning. Enisa Salimović- ITUC/PERC SEE Office presented the information on the national round tables, held in Serbia, Croatia, BiH and Macedonia. Before the meeting in Ohrid, all the participating countries in the Project prepared a new – unique model of their national documents about the reform of pension systems, developed on the base of the Questionnaire prepared by Mr. Hutsebaut. All revised national reports on pension systems and reforms were presented and discussed. Mr. Martin Hutsebaut – EU expert in the Project - gave mentor’s observation of the national situation, elaboration of the action-plan and of the main common claims. Afterwards he drew conclusions from the national presentations and presented an outline of what could be considered as a model for the national pension systems. He also articulated which socio-economic policies were required in order to achieve such systems. The meeting continued with national presentations focusing on trade union positions.</p> <p>The meeting was organised in the framework of the LO Norway Project “Contribution of trade unions to the reforms of pension systems”</p> <p>Please see for more information and conclusion of the meeting on the PERC web site.</p>
<p><b>Setting up of NIS trade union economic experts network, 23-24 May, Tbilisi</b></p> 	<p>Following the PERC annual programme of activities a meeting of trade union economic experts from NIS region was organised in Tbilisi, 23-24 May 2011. Participants from AHIK, CNSM, FPRK, FPU, KVPU and GTUC, representatives of PERC and its Moscow and Prof. Bruno Sergi, Bela Galgoczi from the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) took part in the meeting and discussed the idea of setting up an expert network to provide support and advice for trade union policies in the NIS region.</p> <p>The participants were presented with the PERC approaches to such kind of regional cooperation and the experience from the functioning of similar networks in the Balkans. Broader economic policy issues, linked to the impact of the crisis and the search for recovery policies that will go beyond the current simplistic austerity approaches, particularly in Europe, were addressed and discussed. In that context the latest product of the joint efforts of TUAC, ETUI and ITUC experts, the forthcoming ETUI publication of a book - Exiting from the crisis: towards a more equitable and sustainable model of growth was also presented at the meeting. As the book is being translated in Russian for the NIS region at the moment a more in-depth discussion has been left for the next meeting when participants will have the chance to read it and see the</p>

	<p>relevant points for their situations.</p> <p>After an internal discussion of the NIS experts the meeting came forward with conclusions that confirmed the usefulness to set up a NIS network of economic experts, to start a website and establish contacts with the similar operation in the Balkans. Along with that some priority areas for work to start with have been identified: Wages and wage systems policies; pension reform approaches for trade union policies; developing and implementation of social standards; exchange of information and experience in collective bargaining to strengthen trade union positions in the process. The ITUC/PERC office in Moscow will provide organisational and technical support for the operation of the network.</p> <p>The activity was organised with support of the LO-TCO.</p> <p>/PERC/</p>
<p><b><i>Building project making skills, workshop for youth and women's committees, Brussels, 25-27 May</i></b></p>  	<p>Upon request of the Youth and Women's committees of the PERC a three-day workshop on building project skills was organised for young trade unionists of several affiliates from NIS and SEE. Particular attention was given to participation of those dealing with project work and with youth / gender activities in the organisations. Paola Simonetty of the ITUC introduced the participants to the ITUC development and cooperation agenda and its Development and Cooperation Network and to different project opportunities existing within the European Union financial frameworks. They also reflected upon project experiences of their organisations.</p> <p>Grigor Gradev informed about the role of the project work in the PERC operations and the tendencies of decentralization of project funding as well as about marginalisation of social partners in civil society consultative frameworks of the two sub regions, which often have repercussions on project opportunities, since the funding tends to be diverted to professional low-scale NGOs. One of the reasons for that is that unions often lack the necessary skills to compete with these NGOs in the set-up of the calls for proposals that do not reflect correctly the role of social partners in the societies.</p> <p>In group work the participants were able to improve their project writing skills by working on the Logical Framework Approach, concept notes, activities planning and budget of the specific initiatives they might wish to develop. The group decided to continue joint work and to set up a network of practice sharing.</p> <p>The activity was financially supported by the ILO-ACTRAV.</p> <p>/PERC/</p>

	<p><b><i>News from the organisations</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>Georgia becoming the black sheep of workers' rights in Europe</i></b></p> 	<p>Georgia is rapidly becoming the black sheep of workers' rights in Europe. The workers are being pressed to work in unhealthy and dangerous environments, trade union activists are being dismissed, and trade union leaders are being harassed and threatened. The whole existence of independent trade union organisations is put at risk.</p> <p>“Ten years ago we witnessed in the post-Soviet union area the same brutal union busting as we now see in Georgia,” said Sharan Burrow, the general secretary of the ITUC.</p> <p>“We will continue supporting the Georgian Trade Union Confederation and would not hesitate to use all the International and European instruments we possess to confront the anti-unionism policy of the Georgian government. We did so in the Belarus case that finally led to the withdrawal of the European GSP because of workers' rights violations. Our US affiliate the AFL-CIO has already initiated the investigation procedure by the US government regarding respect of the workers' rights in Georgia,” she added.</p> <p>Despite numerous promises to the International Labour Organisation and contrary to the international commitments taken by the country, the Georgian government has not taken any steps or measures towards making trade union and labour rights respected in the country. While on one hand Georgia is presenting its successes in terms of economic growth, on the other hand it keeps silent on the growing number of human rights violations and the total disregard and ignorance of health and safety issues, which has led to costs in workers' lives on an increasing scale. Employers also did not refrain from targeting workers who sought to establish a union, using the provision of a medieval labor code the Georgian government is so proud of. Georgia is one of the very few countries in the whole world that does not have a labor inspection.</p> <p>“How can a government ignore core labour rights – on freedom of association and collective bargaining, on health and safety at work – and count on success of processes of association with the European Union?” asks Irakli Petriashvili, president of the Georgian trade union confederation GTUC. “European decision makers should not have any illusions that behind the democratic façade there is a government that is devoted to busting the democratic values and interests of workers. We cannot accept the increasing insecurity and lack of rights and the fact that workers are risking and losing their lives at work and that their organizations are being attacked by the authorities,” added Petriashvili</p> <p>/ITUC/</p>

**CMKOS demonstration in Prague against the reforms proposed by the government, 21 May**



The CMKOS convened a demonstration against the reforms proposed by the Government on the 21st May 2011 at 13.00 on Wenceslas Square in the centre of Prague. The demonstration was successful, around 48 000 people participated in it. According to the CMKOS the Czech Government is not able to prevent stealing of money from public budgets. While sweeping its scandals under the carpet the Government very diligently makes decisions on reforms - without any consensus with social partners, without an analysis of reforms' impacts on citizens. It plans to get the reforms of health care, taxation, pension and social systems approved by this June!

The reforms will completely change our lives. Employees, seniors, patients and handicapped will become sponsors of ruling elites.

- Pensions, health and social care will be denationalized and made to serve for profit.
- Majority of citizens will lose last guarantees as for instance quality and accessible health care and decent life in the old age.
- Employees will become tax beasts of burden. Employees' benefits will be eliminated.
- Three million employees will lose lunch vouchers, tens of thousands of workers in catering will lose their jobs, restaurants' owners their business.
- The proposed tax abatement of 250 CZK (10€) a month will not cover the contributions for catering and 600 thousand workers with the lowest incomes will not be able to apply this abatement as they do not pay taxes. It will be us who will pay the great pension robbery.
- Pensions will not be the adequate substitution of wage for pensioners any more - as it is now under the current pay as you go system based on solidarity. The Government is sinking down this cheapest and the most reliable protection of citizens in the old age. The pension account got into the deficit mainly due to the fact that during last four years the amount of contributions to social insurance was reduced six times.
- The Government will balance the losses in pay as you go system by increased VAT rate (our money) and means thus gained will be transferred to private capital funds where the investment risks will be borne by future pensioners. Only the rich will be healthy.
- The introduction of managed medical treatment and paid "over standard" will make the patients to pay for every treatment. Already now majority of citizens does not have enough money for that.

/CMKOS/

**Continuation of trade unions' actions in Romania**

The five large trade union confederations in Romania, National Trade Union Confederation „Cartel ALFA”, the National Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Romania – FRATIA, the Democratic Trade Union Confederation of Romania, The National Trade Union Bloc and the National Trade Union Confederation "Meridian", organised on May 19, a major demonstration in front of the Government building in Bucharest. Over 70,000 trade union members (as it was



estimated by the organisers) responded to the call of the leaders of the five trade union confederations. The strong protest of the trade union members is determined by the austerity measures announced by the Government, as they result from the letter of intent between the Government and the International Monetary Fund. The Government intentions were the following: 15% reduction in the pensions, 25% reduction in the total revenues of the budgetary employees from 1st June, 25% reduction in the minimum wage and 15% reduction in the unemployment benefit. The Government solutions involve taxation of the luncheon vouchers, reduction in the subsidies, reduction or waiving of social benefits, including those for disabled persons and war veterans. On the list of draconian solutions proposed by the government there are the firing of 250,000 people, the closing of 200 hospitals and scores of schools, and the "flexibility" of the Labour Code in order to facilitate the massive layoffs. Other reasons for discontent, shouted by tens of thousands of trade union members in front of the Government building, were the lack of interest in public funds shown by governance, ineffective measures to combat tax evasion, the refusal to discuss and negotiate with trade unions, the refusal of authorities to take into account other solutions, more efficient, proposed by the trade unions in order to reduce the budgetary expenditures and mitigate the effects of the economic crisis. The Speakers, leaders of the organisers and also of all major trade union confederations and of member federations, which represents employees in all fields of activity from the budgetary sector and the private economy, stated that the government requires the „sacrifice” of the poor people , while the structures of the state apparatus keep their privileges. Trade union leaders, supported by the crowd, demanded the resignation of the Government which proved to be unable to manage the critical situation in Romania. The five trade union confederations proposed a package of measures that would reduce the social effects which are a burden to most people lying at the edge of poverty, and also solutions in order to help Romania to exit from the crisis and to balance the income and expenditure budget of the state.

**Mobilisation of Lithuanian trade unions for increase of minimum wage and lower food prices**



Trade unions (TU) of Lithuania brought people from all over the country to Vilnius to demand an increase in the minimum wage, lower food prices, take job creation measures and stop emigration, reduce VAT for printed material. On 19th of March about 1500 – 2000 people took part in a rally from the Seimas to the Government building. In the meeting TU leaders were encouraging the government to increase the minimum wage up to 1000 litas (now the monthly minimum wage in Lithuania is LTL 800 - about €232).

"Let's look at Latvia, our neighbour, where the situation was worst and still is really difficult, but the minimum wage is higher and has increased again."- said A.Černiauskas, the leader of LPSK (Lithuanian Trade Union Confederation). Since 2010 about 84 thousand people, mostly young, emigrated from Lithuanian and in

	<p>twenty years of independence - almost half a million left the country. A. Jašinskienė, the president of the trade union “Solidarumas” was inviting people to be as one in demanding the government to take measures in job creation. „Only from our commitment and concentration dependent expected results.” – She concluded her speech.</p> <p>In the rally there were a number of posters with slogans like: "Maximum exploitation - a minimum of conscience", “In a European country – a European wage!”, “Immigration has finished - the evacuation begins" etc. Specifically people demanded that the government ensures economic growth, decreases taxes, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and increases the minimum wage. Among the participants there was also parliamentary opposition, some politics from non-parliamentary parties.</p> <p>In the trade union opinion, till now the government was focused on the business: the reduction or the corporation tax, the reduction of VAT for some sectors. Therefore, in TU view, now an ordinary worker should be taken into account. “The Prime Minister said that the crisis is over. So let us feel that this period is over!” - encouraged the government the leader of LDF (Lithuanian Labor Federation) V.Puskepalis.</p> <p>That Saturday all the demands were brought to the government building, which was empty. The protest action was organized by the Lithuania Trade Union Confederation (LPSK), the Lithuanian Labour Federation (LDF) and the Lithuanian Trade Union ‘Solidarumas’ (LPS ‘Solidarumas’), together with the Lithuanian Journalists’ Union (LŽS)</p> <p>/Lithuanian unions/</p>
<p><b>Bulgarian railway unions actions</b></p> 	<p>At the end of 2010, aimed at reaching a credit agreement with the World Bank for the Railways Infrastructure Rehabilitation in Bulgaria, the two structures of the Bulgarian Railways: BDZ/Bulgarian State Railway/ and NKZI/National Company Railway Infrastructure/ without taking into account the considerations of CITUB and Podkrepa CL have announced a number of planned measures aimed at: 30% decrease in wages and layoffs of 5744 of all 28.000 employed in the two companies; privatisation of the only one profitable activity- the frights transportation. The branch trade union structures, as well as the two representative trade union confederations CITUB and Podkrepa CL decisively opposed the planned measures. Despite of the repeated attempts from the trade unions for conducting meaningful negotiations no results have been achieved. This resulted in a warning strike for one hour on 10 March, when over the entire country 73 trains were blocked. Negotiations started in the afternoon the same day between the two railway structures and the trade union confederations; the results of the negotiations</p>

	<p>were two agreements which guarantee: denial of mass redundancies without a preliminary agreement with trade unions; guaranteeing the payments for additional social benefits and food vouchers; searching for mutually acceptable decisions for additional pension insurance in cases of early retirement; informing the trade unions about the investment programs and discussing the financial results. At the same time a Memorandum for the future development of the railway transport was signed by the ministers of transport, labour and social policy, the leaders of the confederations CITUB and Podkrepa CL. The Bulgarian unions expressed their sincere gratitude to the ITUC, ETUC, and international and European branch structures which supported the fair demands of the workers and employees in the Bulgarian railway companies.</p> <p>/Bulgarian unions/</p>
	<p><b><i>Upcoming events</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>Communication for labour right for NIS</i></b></p>	<p><b>15 -17 June, Moscow</b></p>
<p><b><i>Organising task force meeting</i></b></p>	<p><b>23-24 June, Brussels</b></p>
<p><b><i>Palanga youth summer camp</i></b></p>	<p><b>25-30 June, Palanga</b></p>
<p><b><i>Sub regional gender seminar for the Balkans</i></b></p>	<p><b>29-30 June, Sofia</b></p>
<p><b><i>Danube strategy meeting</i></b></p>	<p><b>5 July, Vienne</b></p>
<p><b><i>Sub regional gender seminar for NIS</i></b></p>	<p><b>6-7 July, Kishinev</b></p>

	<p><b><i>You may be interested</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>The following proposed loans were posted to the IFC website since the last update:</i></b></p>	<p>1. Seker SME Covered Bond - Turkey                  2. KazMicroFinance Senior Loan - Kazakhstan                  3. Galnaftogaz (petroleum distribution) - Ukraine                  4. Priorbank Joint Stock Company - Belarus                  5. Georgian Urban Enerji Ltd.(hydropower plant) - Georgia/Turkey                  6. Sibur (beverage) - Uzbekistan                  7. Farmakom (manufacturing) - Serbia                  8. Mriya Agro Holding Public Limited (agriculture) - Ukraine                  9. Odessa Container Terminal - Ukraine                  10. Access Bank Tajikistan (microfinance) - Tajikistan                  11. Oasis (beverage) - Belarus                  12. Idavang A/S (animal production) - Russian Federation                  13. Fondibesa (microfinance) - Albania                  14. Scholz AG (metal waste management/recycling) - Southern Europe Region                  15. Zorlu Enerji Pakistan (wind farm) - Pakistan</p> <p>For more information, please search the project number provided here in the IFC projects database (<a href="http://www.ifc.org/projects">www.ifc.org/projects</a>) 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: <a href="mailto:fricciardone@globalunions-us.org">fricciardone@globalunions-us.org</a></p>