



ETUCE welcomes colleagues in the 10 new member countries

*Page 2*

Developments in the European Union Treaty Campaign

*Page 3*

EI Pan European Committee / ETUCE Executive Board meeting

*Page 4*

ETUCE campaign: Europe Needs Teachers

*Page 6*

Meeting with President Romano Prodi

*Page 7*

ETUCE Projects

*Page 8*

ETUC project on collective bargaining and social dialogue

*Page 9*

Update on Social Dialogue Negotiations on Stress at Work

*Page 10*

## **EU Enlargement: ETUCE welcomes colleagues in the 10 new member countries**

ETUCE warmly welcomes its member organisations in the 10 new member countries into the EU and looks forward to representing their interests as full EU members in the area of education, training and research at the EU level.

[>>> Read more](#)

## **European Union Treaty Campaign: Irish Presidency's proposal still not good enough**

The ETUCE campaign concerning the state of education in relation to the new draft Constitutional Treaty is entering its crucial phase.

[>>> Read more](#)

## **EI Pan European Committee / ETUCE Executive Board meeting**

On 26-27 April, the first integrated meeting of the EI Pan European Committee and the ETUCE Executive Board within the new Pan European structure was held in Brussels.

[>>> Read more](#)

## **Calendar**

14-15 June

ETUCE Council meeting

16 June

ETUCE Networks meeting

27 September

EI / ETUCE Bureau meeting

## **ETUCE welcomes colleagues in the 10 new member countries**

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 new member states and 75 million new EU citizens entered into the European Union. The EU enlargement marks an important achievement in the joint efforts of European countries to secure a Europe of peace, respect, democracy and prosperity. ETUCE warmly welcomes its member organisations in the 10 new member countries into the EU and looks forward to representing their interests as full EU members in the area of education, training and research at the EU level.

The enlargement also brings about a need for increased cooperation and solidarity within the trade union movement as a counterpart to the increasingly leading role the EU plays in social affairs and labour market policies as well as in education. ETUCE looks forward to the opportunities for enhanced cooperation with member organisations in the new EU countries in developing effective strategies to advance teachers' rights and to work jointly for a Europe in which quality education is accessible to *all*.

Education systems in Europe are characterised by their great diversity. While EU member states have collaborated on sharing information on educational policies since the 1970's and have actively worked to encourage the mobility of students since 1986, it was not until 1992, when the Maastricht Treaty was signed, that education became formally recognised as a legitimate area in which the EU held responsibility. Since then, the EU's role in the area of education has intensified. In accordance with articles 149 and 150 of the Treaty, the EU's role is to encourage cooperation, while paying due respect to the diversity of national education systems, as each member state retains full responsibility for the content and organisation of its education system.

In particular, since 2000, the EU has seen an intensified cooperation on educational policy issues with the Lisbon strategy identifying a number of shared goals for EU's education and training systems. Defining common benchmarks, indicators for measuring progress, the exchange of good educational practice and policies are all part of EU's work in the area of education. With a view to the enlargement, the 10 new member countries have been involved in the implementation of the Lisbon strategy for some time now, together with EFTA-countries and applicant countries, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey.

ETUCE welcomes our colleagues from the 10 joining countries and ETUCE has already in December 2003 made the structural changes to make it happen. Through these changes the tight cooperation will continue with organisations in more candidate countries and in other European countries as well.

ETUCE will continue and strengthen its work to contribute actively to promote the social dialogue at all levels and to promote the crucial role of education in the fight for basic social rights and against social exclusion.

### **Developments in the European Union Treaty Campaign: Irish Presidency proposal still not good enough**

The ETUCE campaign concerning the state of education in relation to the new draft Constitutional Treaty is entering its crucial phase, as forecasts predict that the European Council will reach an agreement on the Treaty in June.

The Irish EU Presidency has recently put forward a proposal for amendments to the current article III-217 on Common Commercial Policy, but these amendments do not safeguard education further from being subject to trade.

The amendments propose a clarification of the relations between the voting rules in the Council for EU external agreements and the EU's internal legislation relating to trade in services, meaning that external agreements must be voted on according to the voting rules applying to internal legislation on the specific services area in question. This solves a legal problem of inconsistency in voting rules in the current draft Treaty.

However, it does not solve a legal problem of inconsistency between EU external and internal *competencies* in the area of education. According to article III-182 and III-183 in the draft Treaty (and article 149 and 150 in the Nice Treaty), the EU's internal competencies in the area of education are limited to adopting "incentive measures" and "recommendations". On the other hand, the EU's external competencies in relation to agreements on trade in services, for instance within the GATS, can amount to signing *legally binding international agreements to which all member states must apply*.

According to article III-217 of the draft Treaty, Common Commercial Policy decisions regarding trade in services, including education, can be taken by a qualified majority vote in the Council of Ministers. The Irish Presidency's proposed amendments, as described above, do not alter this, as EU decisions in the area of education are taken by a qualified majority vote in the Council under the terms of the draft Treaty.

Since negotiations on the Treaty began last autumn, ETUCE has addressed EU ministers to draw their attention to the legal problem of imbalance and the contradictions between EU external and internal competence on trade in services. In the

resolution adopted at the General Assembly in December 2003, ETUCE demanded that education be exempted from Commercial Policies as is the case in the provisions in the Nice Treaty, in which article 133 on Common Commercial Policy clearly states that education is exempted from the scope of the EU's competencies in trade.

ETUCE calls upon member organisations to continue to address their governments on this issue. The possibilities for trade in education within the GATS present a real matter of concern, as the internal competencies regarding education as described in Article 149 and 150 could be jeopardised by the EU's external competencies on Commercial Policies for trade in education.

The Finnish government's proposal presented to the Irish Presidency that decisions on trade in education should only be taken unanimously by the Council is in line with ETUCE's campaign on this issue. Member organisations are urged to make contacts with their governments in support of this proposal. However, while unanimity in voting rules for trade in education goes some way towards safeguarding education in relation to trade, an explicit exemption of education from the scope of the EU's Common Commercial Policy is still the goal.

Over the course of the next five weeks, EU ministers will meet several times in the General Affairs Council to negotiate the Constitutional Treaty. A final agreement is expected at the European Council on 17-18 June.

### **EI Pan European Committee / ETUCE Executive Board meeting**

On 26-27 April, the first integrated meeting of the EI Pan European Committee and the ETUCE Executive Board within the new Pan European structure was held in Brussels.

The Pan European structure has the benefit of providing for integrated meetings of the representatives from the whole European region; hence representatives from non-EU/EFTA countries are invited to remain present as observers when items on the agenda pertaining exclusively to ETUCE matters are considered at the meetings. 45 representatives from 40 European countries attended the meeting.

### **ETUCE actions**

ETUCE General Secretary Martin Rømer gave a report on the recent actions undertaken by ETUCE in relation to current EU issues, notably regarding the Commission's proposed re-examination of the 1993 Directive on Working Time and the

proposal for a Directive on Services in the Internal Market, as well as the issue of the legal status of trade in education in the draft Constitutional Treaty. The organisations were again encouraged to make contacts with their governments about changes to the proposed Constitutional Treaty.

#### ETUCE Council meeting

The EI/ETUCE Bureau set forward a proposal for combining the forthcoming ETUCE Council meeting on 14-15 June 2004 with a conference on the Lisbon Strategy: “Developing policies on the use of Indicators and Benchmarks”, for which ETUCE has recently received approval of funding from the Commission. The role of the ETUCE Council is to act as a consultative and advisory body to the Executive Board on matters related to ETUCE policies. As such, the topic of the conference provides a timely and substantial political theme to be discussed by the Council. This proposal was endorsed by the Executive Board and it was furthermore agreed to restrict the use of languages to only the official languages of ETUCE. The Council Meeting will thus take place on 14 June from 11.00-17.00 and on 15 June from 9.00 to 15.30. More details, invitations and the conference programme will be sent to all member organisations during May.

#### ETUCE Electronic Networks

The Executive Board endorsed a proposed restructuring of the ETUCE electronic networks set up within the project ‘Dialogue On’. Carried out in cooperation with the European Trade Union College (ETUCO) with the involvement of numerous European trade unions affiliated to the ETUC, the project received financial support from the European Commission from November 2001 to February 2004. In the future, it is the intention that the ETUCE electronic networks will continue, in line with their original aims: to share information among ETUCE member organisations and to develop agreements, proposals, policies etc. online. As such, the networks could play a quite important role for ETUCE in serving as advisory bodies. The current networks comprise the Chief Negotiators Network, the Quality in Education Network, the Higher Education, Research and Teacher Education Network and the Legal Experts Network. It was agreed to reorganize and rename the Chief Negotiators Network into a Working Conditions Network.

At the same time, the Quality in Education Network will change into a Development in Education Network. As decided earlier, the networks will be expanded to all ETUCE organisations.

The implementation of the restructuring of the Networks will take place when issuing invitations to the first Networks Meeting. In the light of the prolongation of the Council Meeting, it was agreed to reschedule the planned ‘physical’ meeting of the networks on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> June to the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2004

from 9.30 – 16.00. A short training session for new participants will be provided at this meeting.

Additionally, the Committee approved a proposed programme of coordinated activities for the EI Pan European structure and ETUCE, as well as a new agreement of cooperation between EI/ETUCE and ESIB<sup>1</sup>. Participants were informed of current and forthcoming ETUCE projects. ETUCE has successfully applied for support from the European Commission and the General Secretary gave an overview of current projects.

The next EI Pan-European Committee / ETUCE Executive Board meeting will take place on 6 December 2004.

### **ETUCE Campaign: Europe needs Teachers**

At the General Assembly in Luxembourg in 2003, it was decided to initiate a campaign “Europe needs Teachers” during 2004, with the double objective of ensuring sufficient teacher supply and ensuring high quality teacher education in the European Union. The campaign will be fully launched in the autumn but, with a view to the European Parliamentary elections in June, an ETUCE statement will be issued in May.

The key message of the statement is that, in order to reach the goals set by EU education ministers within the Lisbon strategy for improving the quality of the European education systems, teachers must be given the necessary support to do a better job. The Lisbon strategy’s overall goal is to make Europe “*the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world*” by 2010, and education is regarded as a crucial instrument to achieve this goal. As a result, European teachers are facing new demands and challenges. The statement clearly outlines why this means an increased need for well-qualified teachers at a time when there already exists a growing shortage of teachers in several European countries.

The ETUCE statement calls upon EU governments and politicians to take urgent action to find solutions to the teacher shortage problem and provide quality education for teachers, both initial and in-service training, in order to help teachers meet the new challenges arising from their changing role in the knowledge-based society.

---

<sup>1</sup> The National Unions of Students in Europe.

## **President Prodi shares trade unions concerns on future of public services in the EU**

At the meeting with European Commission President, Romano Prodi on 31 March, ETUCE and the ETUC service federations, EPSU<sup>2</sup>, UNI-europa<sup>3</sup> and ETF<sup>4</sup>, pressed President Prodi to take action to put in place a legal framework on Services of General Interest (SGI).



The trade unions expressed their utmost concern at the way in which the Commission has recently proceeded in dealing with public services in the EU. The Commission launched a broad debate on SGI in the EU in a Green Paper published in May 2003 but, whereas conclusions have yet to be drawn on the consultation process on the Green Paper, the Commission set forward in January 2004 a new draft directive on Services in the internal market, which is currently being rushed through in the Council of the European Union.

The pending, ultraliberal proposed directive on services in the internal market makes the need for a legal framework on SGI all the more pressing. The liberalisation of services must be given a strong legal counterweight, in order to ensure that competition rules and market forces do not jeopardise EU citizens' access to quality public services.

“Services of General Interest are crucial not only for public sector workers but for all citizens in the enlarged European Union. If the social market economy is to have any meaning, it is

---

<sup>2</sup> European Federation of Public Service Unions.

<sup>3</sup> European Trade Union Federation for Services and Communication.

<sup>4</sup> European Transport Workers' Federation.

unacceptable that the EU is giving high priority to a free market of services directive while blocking proposals to strengthen workers' rights and commitment towards quality and accessible public services," said Józef Niemiec, ETUC Confederal Secretary.

President Prodi agreed with the trade unions on the increased need for a legal framework on SGI as a result of the proposed Services Directive and stated moreover that the initial evaluation of the responses received in the consultation process on the Green Paper on SGI shows a broad interest in a clarification of Community rules on SGI. However, President Prodi referred to the 'harsh' political climate in the EU seeking to take the internal market forward as far as possible. In turn, the ETUC delegation urged the President to show leadership in meeting EU citizens' fair and realistic expectations for a social Europe.

### **ETUCE projects supporting policies and Action Programme**

The European Commission has approved a project (a Conference) on "*The Concrete Future Objectives of Education Systems in Europe (Stage II): Developing policies on the use of Indicators and Benchmarks*". The Conference will be held together with the ETUCE Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June.

The *ELFE* project (*European eLearning Forum for Education*), which started in January 2004, has entered already into its second Phase, in which the experts and other members of the Steering Committee are performing study visits to those schools developing pilot projects on ICT in education. Its website will be launched in the coming weeks. Experts are carrying out relevant research work and ETUCE has high expectations for its results.

*ROMA-Children*: The preparatory phase of the project to enhance the situation of Roma children in Bulgaria, Hungary and Slovakia – entitled "*Developing non-discriminatory quality education for Roma children*" – is also well on the way. The co-ordination committee has already held meetings with teachers and parents from Roma and non-Roma origin in Bulgaria. Problems and possible solutions are being identified. On 20<sup>th</sup> May, the co-ordination committee will meet education local authorities in Sliven, a Bulgarian region where there is a large community of Roma children and where special school programmes are being implemented. After a Conference in June in which Slovaks and Hungarians will join, we expect the Steering Committee to develop a proposal for the two-year implementation period. The results at this stage have been very successful.

*Social Dialogue Seminar: “How to engage effectively in social dialogue?”* with the aim of examining the development of social dialogue for teacher organisations in the 10 new member states will probably take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The seminar is being developed together with ETUCO<sup>5</sup>. More information will be sent to member organisations.

ETUCE has sent in applications for new projects, as listed below, and is waiting for the approval of the European Commission:

- *IQTE – Improving quality of teacher education in Europe: establishing a comprehensive framework.* Aim: Analyse the situation of teacher education in Europe and develop ETUCE policy on teacher education in relation to the Lisbon strategy. A comprehensive report will be carried out by an expert.
- *Strengthening European Social Dialogue in the Education Sector.* Aim: Discuss and develop an Action Plan for the preparation of a Sectoral Social Dialogue at European level in the field of education; special attention to be given to the new member states. The employers’ organisations CEEP<sup>6</sup>/CEMR<sup>7</sup> will be invited to participate in the process.
- *From Berlin to Bergen.* Aim: Preparation for the Bergen Ministerial Conference 2005 on the Bologna Process. It includes a survey and a Conference.
- *Social Dialogue in education: training seminars.* Aim: Contribute to the development of national social dialogue in the new member states by improving the skills of teachers’ unions.
  
- *Project on Restructuring* (European Social Fund – Article 6). Two key actions have been proposed by ETUCE:
  - Devolved pay and conditions bargaining for teachers. (Within the context of Chief Negotiations Network)
  - New forms of recruitment and career development. (Within the context of Higher Education and Research Network)

---

<sup>5</sup> European Trade Union College.

<sup>6</sup> European Centre of Enterprises with Public Participation and of Enterprises of General Economic Interest.

<sup>7</sup> The Council of European Municipalities and Regions.

## **ETUC project on collective bargaining and social dialogue**

In April, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) launched a study on the development of collective bargaining and social dialogue, both at European and national sectoral levels, during the period 2001-2004. The aim is to improve further the coordination of collective bargaining at European level in the future. To this end, ETUCE's member organisations have been asked to contribute by supplying information on the state of collective bargaining in their countries in the period covered by the study. Questionnaires have been sent out to all member organisations covering a number of different issues, including:

- Lifelong learning and competence building
- Working Time
- Equal opportunities between women and men
- Health and safety at work
- Types of contract
- Employment promotion and protection
- Social inclusion and social protection
- Pay
- Used criteria on wage negotiation
- Present situation and forecasts

The result of the study by sector and by country will be communicated to all member organisations and is likely to be a very useful source of information for all.

ETUCE is member of the ETUC Working Group on Coordination of Collective Bargaining. The ETUC's Annual Report on the coordination of collective bargaining 2003-2004 was adopted at the last ETUC Executive Committee Meeting on 17-18 March 2004.

## **Update on Social Dialogue Negotiations on Stress at Work**

The negotiations between the ETUC and the European Employers' organisations (UNICE<sup>8</sup>/CEEP<sup>9</sup>) on a framework agreement on stress at work will hold a final negotiating session on 10-11 May. Prior to the session, the ETUC delegation had found that there were still many problems that needed to be solved before the negotiations could be finalised.

So far, a draft joint proposal on the content of the agreement has been drawn up. The proposal includes the following elements: 1)

---

<sup>8</sup> Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe.

<sup>9</sup> European Centre of Enterprises with Public Participation and of Enterprises of General Economic Interest.

Introduction. 2) Aim. 3) Description. 4) Identifying problems of work related stress. 5) Responsibilities of employers and workers. 6) Preventing, reducing or eliminating problems of work related stress. However, from the point of view of the ETUC delegation, the draft text includes many critical points that need to be discussed before the text can be accepted. In particular, the description of stress is found to be too individualised and the prevention of stress is not sufficiently emphasised. Furthermore, concrete obligations of the employer/employee are still too blurred in the draft text. Among positive aspects of the draft, the ETUC delegation mentions the fact that participation of workers is strengthened and that the link to the EU framework directive on health and safety has been clarified.

The results of the negotiations are due to be presented to the ETUC Executive Committee at its meeting in June.

#### **New publications from the European Trade Union Institute**

*Are activation policies converging in Europe?*

The European Employment Strategy for young people.

Edited by Amparo Serrano Pascual. 2004. 518 pages.

Available in English only.

<http://www.etuc.org/etui/New/ActPolEES.cfm>

#### **New publications from OECD**

*Innovation in the Knowledge Economy:*

*Implications for Education and Learning.*

May 2004. OECD report. Only available in English.

*OECD Handbook for Internationally Comparative Education Statistics: Concepts, Standards, Definitions and Classifications.*

April 2004. Only available in English.

## **Calls for proposals announced by the European Commission**

*Please click on the related hyperlink for more information on each of the calls for proposals.*

### **Erasmus Mundus programme**

The final call for proposals under this recently adopted cooperation and mobility programme is now announced.

*Deadline for applications:*

*For activities related to the academic year 2004-2005: 31 May 2004*

*For activities related to the academic year 2005-2006: 31 October 2004*

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/mundus/call\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/mundus/call_en.html)

### **Exploitation of innovative results from the Leonardo da Vinci programme**

This is the second call for proposals to support the organisation of events (conferences and exhibitions) to promote the exploitation of the products and processes resulting from innovative projects supported under the Leonardo da Vinci Programme.

*Deadline for applications: 28 June 2004*

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/leonardo/new/leonardo2/events/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/leonardo/new/leonardo2/events/index_en.html)

### **eLearning programme**

This call for proposals aims to address three of the four areas of intervention of the eLearning Programme: a) Promoting digital literacy; b) European virtual campuses; c) Transversal actions.

*Deadline for applications: 28 June 2004*

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/elearning/call\\_eac2604\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/elearning/call_eac2604_en.html)