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### Preparation of the 2006 Joint Council/Commission Report

Member States' contributions to the 2006 Joint Report will be handed in to the Commission by 30 April 2005 and will form the key input in the proposal from the Commission for a draft Joint Report. The report should set out how Member States have responded to the challenge set at the Lisbon European Council in March 2000 to modernise education and training systems to the requirements of the knowledge-based society and economy, and turn them into reality.

[>>> Read more](#)

### Successful Conference on the ROMA project

*The ETUCE's ROMA project ("Developing non-discriminatory quality education for Roma children") was launched at a conference in Budapest on 9 April. Over than 100 participants from ETUCE member organisations, local authorities and relevant NGOs discussed the role of trade unions in Roma children education.*

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### ETUCE position paper on the Commission's mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy

Ahead of the Spring Summit, an ETUCE position paper on the Commission's mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy was sent to the Commission. It stresses that ETUCE strongly opposes the lack of balance in the mid-term review.

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### Calendar

#### 28 April:

EI / ETUCE Bureau,  
Brussels

#### 19 - 20 May:

Bologna Ministerial  
Conference, Bergen

#### 6 June:

ETUCE Networks Meeting,  
Brussels

[>>> More events in 2005](#)

## Successful Launching of the Conference on the ROMA project

*The ETUCE's ROMA project ("Developing non-discriminatory quality education for Roma children") was launched at a conference in Budapest on 9 April. Over than 100 participants from ETUCE member organisations, local authorities and relevant NGOs discussed the role of trade unions in Roma children education.*



László Varga, President of SEH, opened the conference followed by Martin Rømer, ETUCE General Secretary, who presented the main objectives of the project. Bálint Magyar, Hungarian Minister of Education, briefed the participants on the Roma children education in Hungary and Thomas Glaser, Acting Head of Representation of European Commission in Hungary, spoke about the specific actions in favour of the Roma minority in Hungary within the EU Action Programme aiming at combating discrimination. Furthermore, some of the best experts in the field contributed to an interesting conference very valuable the work.



Viktória Mohácsi, ROMA MEP, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

The Conference will be followed by national legal seminars (9 May in Hungary, 10 June in Slovakia and 8 July in Bulgaria), where Lilla Farkas, legal expert of the project, will explain the European Anti-discrimination framework and analyse the transposition of the two relevant Directives into the national legal context of each of the three countries.

A report from the seminar will be available on the ETUCE website.

### **Second annual report from the Commission: "Progress towards the Lisbon Objectives in Education and Training"**

The Commission Staff Working Paper "Progress towards the Lisbon Objectives in Education and Training" is the second annual report examining the performance and progress of education and training systems in the EU. With the report "Progress towards the Lisbon Objectives in Education and Training," the Commission "takes the temperature" regarding the performance and progress of education and training systems in some 30 countries on the basis of 29 indicators identified and endorsed by experts from the participating countries.

#### **EU needs to attract more than one million teachers to the teaching profession**

One of the main conclusions in the report is that the EU needs to attract more than one million teachers to the teaching profession within the period 2005 - 2015. The high proportion of older teachers in school education in the EU implies that more than one million teachers in Europe will have to be replaced. Furthermore, the report stresses the necessity of equipping the teaching body with skills and competencies for its role in the knowledge society over the coming decades. ETUCE is dealing with this problem in the campaign "Europe Needs Teachers" ([Visit the Campaign Website](#))

[Read the Commission Staff Working Paper: "Progress towards the Lisbon Objectives in Education and Training"](#)

### **ETUCE position paper on the Commission's mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy**

Ahead of the Spring Summit, an ETUCE position paper on the Commission's mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy was sent to the Commission. It stresses that ETUCE strongly opposes the lack of balance in the mid-term review that clearly gives priority to economic issues and structural reforms at the expense of progressive social and environmental measures. The position paper draws the attention to the fact that the Lisbon Strategy from the outset was centred on promoting social Europe, as well as on boosting the economy.

To meet this twin objective, ETUCE calls for a broader perspective on the role of education and training in the Commission's mid-term review.

[Read the ETUCE position paper on the Commission's mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy](#)

### Visit to Slovakia

General Secretary Martin Rømer visited Slovakia and OZPSaV at the end of March. OZPSaV had called for an Education Conference to discuss national priorities with the Minister of Education Martin Fronc. As a guest, Martin Rømer spoke to the conference welcoming OZPSaV to the EU family and ETUCE. Martin Rømer also had meetings with the Executive Board and the Minister, and also gave an interview on Slovakian TV. It was clear that major reforms are to take place in Slovakia, but also that teachers' working conditions have to improve, as stated by Martin Rømer on TV : " It is clear Slovakia will have to invest more in education and provide higher salaries for teachers . Our Slovakian friends are doing a great job, but they have really hard times."



Martin Rømer together with President Jan Gasperan OZPSaV, the Education Minister and colleagues from Czech Republic and Serbia.

## **ETUCE presentation on the Services Directive**

*At the EI Conference on GATS and Education - that took place in Paris on 4 - 5 April - ETUCE presented "The Bolkestein Directive at the European Union level" to trade union representatives from all over the world.*

ETUCE provided the participants with an overview of the context of the so-called Bolkestein Directive, explaining the role of the EU in the organisation of education systems in EU Member States as well as the role of education in the EU Treaties (the current "Treaty of Nice" and the new draft Constitutional Treaty). The presentation dealt mainly with the possible consequences of the controversial Directive that might lead to trade in education internally in the EU, but also drew a parallel to the question of whether the EU could in the future include education in the EU's external trade agreements under the GATS.

Furthermore, ETUCE informed participants of the actions teacher unions in the EU are undertaking to campaign for a clear exclusion of education from the Services Directive.

[See the ETUCE presentation ppt](#)

[Visit the website of ETUCE's campaign on the Services Directive](#)

## **Preparation of the 2006 Joint Council/Commission Report**

Member States' contributions to the 2006 Joint Report will be handed in to the Commission by 30 April 2005 and will form the key input in the proposal from the Commission for a draft Joint Report.

The report should set out how Member States have responded to the challenge set at the Lisbon European Council in March 2000 to modernise education and training systems to the requirements of the knowledge-based society and economy, and turn them into reality.

### **Overview of the development of education and training**

The report should present an overview of the development of education and training at national level in view of the Lisbon Strategy and the specific target set by the Barcelona European Council 2002 for Europe's education system to become a world reference by 2010. It is aiming at focusing the debate at the political level and informing stakeholders of the key issues and messages at stake in Education and Training 2010. Furthermore, the 2006 Joint Report should be instrumental in the realisation of a fully integrated approach to education and training at the European level.

### **Adoption of the 2006 Joint Report**

Once it has received the national reports, the Commission will prepare its contribution to the 2006 Joint Report and the 2006 Education & Training 2010 European Report including the working groups' results of the Education and Training 2010 work programme. A draft report will be presented to the Education Council in November and will be adopted by the Council and the Commission in the first half of 2006.

[Visit the Commission's Education and Training 2010 website for further information](#)

### **Mass Communication: 7th Ministerial Conference**

It was President Viktor Youchtchenko who opened the ministerial conference on « Integration and diversity: the new frontiers of the European policy on the media and communication » in Kiev. This Conference reflected the new situation in Ukraine, which is heading for EU membership in the future.

In his speech, he insisted on the need to have a free press and freedom of expression. He indicated that in Ukraine everything is now being undertaken so that journalists can work in complete freedom.

The Conference adopted a policy statement, a plan for action, as well as three resolutions on the freedom of expression and information in times of crisis, on cultural diversity and pluralism of the media, on human rights and media regulation.

The INGOs, among which the education and culture grouping, held their preparatory forum on 8 March and put forward proposals and amendments which were adopted, especially concerning media education and broadcasting ethics:

- « maintain and promote cultural and linguistic diversity in the interest of the intercultural dialogue
- foster in particular children's education to media ... prevent their exposure to harmful contents
- Support measures that promote media education and imply a critical and active use of all media. They should be made available to all teaching levels and be part of the continuous education”

### **The third summit of the Council of Europe**

The third summit of the heads of state and governments of the Council of Europe will take place on 16 and 17 May in Warsaw. The two previous summits were held respectively in Vienna and Strasbourg in 1993 and 1997.

This third summit should define, for the 46 member states, the next priorities for the Council of Europe's future action in a Europe in evolution. It should furthermore underline the specificity of the Council regarding the OECD and the European Union and finally attempt to meet the challenges of our societies, in particular in the areas of social cohesion, cultural policies and education.

Since a few months ago, the INGOs have been applying pressure at all levels to have the issues of education and culture included within the set themes and priorities as well as those relative to social policies and sustainable development.

The INGOs had prepared a general contribution to the debates and to the plans for action to be decided in order to influence the texts and declarations adopted during this Summit. This general contribution was accepted and will be part of the official portfolio of heads of state and governments.

In this contribution, INGOs have underlined among other things:

- the need to influence the role of civil society.
- the will to implement the protection of minorities, the integration of vulnerable groups, non-discrimination and the access of all to services of general interest
- the need for an incentive policy in the area of :
  - Citizenship education
  - The teaching of the history of memory and heritage
  - The development of multilingualism

A specific contribution of the INGO education and culture grouping was produced and accepted for this summit :

« The INGOs

- Call upon the Council of Europe to pursue and intensify the efforts in the area of education and culture
- To this end wish for the assertion of a clear policy, continuous and pluriannual planning, with precise objectives in terms of mid and long-term recommendations to the states”

The INGO Liaison Committee will hold a special meeting in Warsaw on the eve of the third summit, on 14 May, and will welcome the Council of Europe General Secretary, Mr Terry Davis.

## **New communication: “Mobilising the brainpower of Europe”**

On 20 April, the European Commission adopted a communication on “Mobilising the brainpower of Europe: enabling universities to make their full contribution to the Lisbon Strategy”. The communication that underlines that European universities are faced with many challenges is a follow-up to the communication on “The role of universities in the Europe of Knowledge” and to the subsequent consultation of stakeholders.

### **Three priority areas for reform of European universities**

The communication identifies three priority areas for European universities:

- enhancing the quality and attractiveness of Europe’s universities
- improving their governance and systems
- increasing and diversifying their funding

The Commission wants closer university-industry links and urges all Member States to ensure that their regulatory frameworks allow university leadership to undertake genuine change and pursue strategic priorities. The Commission invites the Council to adopt a resolution backing its call for a new type of partnership between public authorities and universities and for sufficient investment in higher education stating that investment in Europe’s higher education and research, and improving its quality, is a direct investment in the future of Europe and Europeans.

ETUCE is working on a position paper on the communication.

[Read the communication: “Mobilising the brainpower of Europe: enabling universities to make their full contribution to the Lisbon Strategy”](#)

[Read the Commission staff working paper on European higher education in a worldwide context](#)

## **ETUCE surveys on Working Time and Social Dialogue**

In the spring 2005, ETUCE is conducting two interesting surveys on “Teachers’ working time in CEE countries” and “European Social Dialogue in the Education” respectively.

### **Improving working conditions in CEE countries**

The newly established ETUCE working group on teachers’ working conditions in Central and Eastern European Countries (CEE working group) has decided to carry out a survey on teachers’ working time in CEE countries. Teachers’ working time vary greatly between the countries, thus accurate and comparable information is needed in order for unions to be able to support each other in improving teachers’ working conditions. For this purpose, a questionnaire has been sent out to ETUCE member organisations in the CEE countries.

## Survey: State of the social dialogue in the field of education in the EU member states

As part of the project "Strengthening European Social Dialogue in the Education Sector" ETUCE is doing a survey in order to investigate the state of the social dialogue in the field of education in the EU member states with special attention to social dialogue in the ten new member states.

The survey is covering the following issues:

- Labour market relations and social dialogue
- Negotiation system
- Condition of employment
- Current system for dialogue
- The national agenda and education
- General awareness and perceptions of European educational matters among teachers

On the basis of the survey, a comparative report on the situation of social dialogue in the 25 countries will be published in late spring 2005.

The final results of both surveys will be available at ETUCE website.

## Reports on Services Directive discussed in the European Parliament

ETUCE can not support the views on education and trade expressed in the opinion on the Services Directive adopted by the EP's committee on Culture and Education (CULT) on 21 April 2005. Ahead of the vote, ETUCE sent a letter to all members of CULT emphasising the importance of excluding educational services from the Directive. The adopted opinion report states that education services offered as part of *compulsory* education, whether at public or private establishments, should be excluded from the Directive, and that higher education in general should not be covered by the controversial country-of-origin principle, i.e. the principle allowing service providers to only comply with the rules of the country-of-establishment, not the country in which the service is offered.

However, the CULT committee fails to take into account the whole area of post-compulsory, upper-secondary education, general as well as VET, as well as education provided as part of continuous professional development. ETUCE strongly regrets the lack of comments by the CULT committee on the impact of the Services Directive on these areas of education.

The opinion drafted by co-rapporteur Marie-Hélène Descamps (EPP) is now submitted to the Committee responsible for reporting on the Directive in the EP, the committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

German socialist MEP Evelyne Gebhardt, who is Rapporteur on the Services Directive in the IMCO Committee presented her first part of amendments on 19 April in IMCO. Her draft report clearly states that the Directive should not apply to educational and cultural services. ETUCE welcomes this position on education, in line with the major demands of the ETUCE campaign. The second part of Ms. Gebhardt's report is expected on 24 May, and ETUCE will continue its campaign on the Directive to ensure that Ms. Gebhardt's position on education is adapted by EP, and to fight for new thinking on the proposal assuring that services will not be liberalised on the basis of the lowest standards.

#### **Joint statement: High quality public education for all citizens**

ETUCE shares the deep concern for the consequences of the Directive with the National Unions of Students in Europe (ESIB) and the Organizing Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU) and a joint statement has been sent to members of the European Parliament and to the European Commission. The ETUCE, ESIB and OBESSU strongly urge the Commission to work towards high quality public education for all citizens and only a clear exemption of the education sector from the Services Directive will testify to this. .

[Read the Joint Statement of ETUCE, ESIB and OBESSU on the Services Directive](#)

### **Calendar**

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EI / ETUCE Bureau, Brussels

#### 19 - 20 May:

Bologna Ministerial Conference, Bergen

#### 6 June:

ETUCE Networks Meeting, Brussels

#### 13 June:

EI / ETUCE Bureau, Brussels

#### 13 - 14 June:

EI Pan-European Committee / ETUCE Executive Board, Brussels

#### 16 - 17 June:

EU: June 2005 Summit of Heads of States, Brussels

#### 2 - 3 July:

ETUCE Social dialogue, regional seminar, Vilnius

## New Publications

- [Commission Staff Working Paper: Progress towards the Lisbon Objectives in Education and Training. 2005 report](#)
- [Communication from the Commission: "Restructuring and employment. Anticipating and accompanying restructuring in order to develop employment: the role of the European Union"](#)
- [Communication: "Mobilising the brainpower of Europe: enabling universities to make their full contribution to the Lisbon Strategy"](#)
- [Commission staff working paper on European higher education in a worldwide context](#)