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ETUCE

European Trade Union Committee for Education EI European Region

ETUCE STATEMENT ON EDUCATION IN ROMANIA

EUROPEAN REGION- ETUCE

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The European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) wishes to express its concern regarding the current situation of education in Romania. The draft Budget 2012 currently under discussions in the Romanian Parliament involves the reduction of the public investment in education to 2% of GDP. The available figures regarding the public investment in education in Romania dates back from 2007, when the country had reported to Eurostat a public expenditure of 4,25% GDP for education. In 2008, the average public spending on education in EU countries was 5, 07 % of GDP.

By choosing to cut its investment by more than 50%, the Romanian government is jeopardizing its unique chance to reach the objectives defined in the EU 2020 strategy. While better education and training policies were clearly named to be the key to sustainable economic growth in Europe the Romanian is about to implement drastic measures which would obviously not only hold back the full development potential of the entire sector but might also undermine the Romanian student's equal opportunities later on the European employment market.

The ETUCE is also seriously concerned about the fact that at the same time the Romanian teachers' trade unions in the primary and secondary education sector have to deal with the introduction of a new union due collection system. At a difficult time where the unions need to demonstrate full commitment to protect the rights and interests of hundreds of thousands teachers, students and finally the entire Romanian education system, education is the only sector challenged by these new problems of technical nature. The ETUCE is worried that these measures could put its member organisation's work seriously at risk at times where their engagement for quality education in Romania is more important than ever.

During the last two weeks the three Romanian teachers' organisations in the primary and secondary education sector, FSLI, FEN and FSI "Spiru Haret", have been organising daily protest actions in front of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to bring their members' concerns forward to the Government. They have announced they will continue the action until their claims will be heard and answered.

Within this context, the ETUCE,

1. Reminds the Romanian Government of its strong commitments to promote and to realise the EU 2020 strategy;
2. Calls on the Romanian Government to refrain from financial cutbacks in the education sector;

3. Asks the Romanian Government to enter into a constructive dialogue with the teachers' organisations on all issues concerning the education sector in order to find a common denominator in the current situation as soon as possible;
4. Encourages the Romanian to maintain a sustainable social dialogue with the teachers' organisations to guarantee the future of quality education and training in Romania;
5. Recommends that the Romanian Government revises its decision to change the union membership fee collection system in the primary and secondary education system and thus to ensure that teachers' organisations can fully concentrate on their work for an improved education system in Romania.
6. Reiterates its full support for the Romanian teacher and their trade unions in primary and secondary sector, FSLI, FEN and FSI "Spiru Haret".

For the ETUCE,



Martin Rømer
European Director

Brussels, 12/07/2011

The ETUCE represents 135 Teacher Unions and 12.8 million teachers in Europe, 5.5 million teachers in the EU, from all levels of the education sector. ETUCE is a social partner in education at the EU level and a trade union federation within ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation.