



Resolution

Change the proposed new Constitutional Treaty: Education not to be subject to trade

The General Assembly of the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE), gathered in Luxembourg from 8–10 December 2003, notes that:

- The draft Constitutional Treaty is proposing a dramatic change in the situation of education in EU's common commercial policy compared to the current Nice Treaty.
- The proposed Article III-217 leaves out the provisions contained in Article 133 of the Nice Treaty, in which education is excluded from the general procedure on commercial policies at European Community level. If the new proposed text is adopted education can be subject to trade with decisions taken by majority in the Council of Ministers.

ETUCE :

- demands a change. Education is a public responsibility and governments in EU should once and for all recognise this. The current negotiations on a new GATS agreement should not in any way be subject to a Community mandate taken by a majority vote.
- notes that also concerns have been expressed by members of the European Parliament, The Committee of Regions as well as some governments. In this relation attention should also be given to a proposed change to Article 217-III from the Finnish government in which future decisions on education in commercial policies have to be taken unanimously.
- calls upon governments and education minister to take action and retain the current text from Article 133 on education in the proposed Constitutional Treaty.
- urgently calls upon all member organisations to take action to ensure that governments are confronted with this demand.