



VISIT FROM A HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION OF THE CHINESE FEDERATION ACFTU

A high-level delegation of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions – ACFTU, led by the organisation's first secretary, Mr Zhang Junjiu, visited the WCL on Tuesday 18 December 2001. The meeting followed the joint seminar on the application of the international labour standards and the trade union action in transnational companies, conducted in September 2000 with support from the ILO. The visit offered the opportunity to have a thorough exchange of views on the continuation of this co-operation. At the end of the visit, the ACFTU and the WCL signed a protocol on the continuation of the exchanges on both these action themes in particular.

MARRIAGE IN CARACAS... BIRTH OF FLATIC

From 25 November to 2 December, two federations, FLATI and FLATICOM, held their Merger Congress in Caracas, Venezuela. The Congress was attended by 76 delegates from fifteen countries as well as by Jaap Wienen, WCL deputy secretary-general, Dick van de Kamp, secretary-general of the World Federation of the Building and Woodworkers' Unions, and Piet Nelissen, executive secretary in charge of the world federations of industry, textile and wood & building workers.

The CLAT was represented by its secretary-general, Eduardo Garcia Moure, and several Board members, Efren Delgado Vargas, director of the UTAL, and Acacia Fernandez Victorio, director of ILACDE.

The Merger Congress of FLATI and FLATICOM resulted in the creation of a new federation: the Latin American Federation of Industry and Building Workers – FLATIC, affiliated to the CLAT and to the WCL.

The organisations composing FLATIC ratified their further affiliation to the World Federation of Building and Woodworkers' Unions, to the International Federation Textile and Clothing and to the World Federation of Industry Workers.

The Congress elected the Executive Committee of the new federation. Its secretary-general is Carlos Gaitan, his deputy Domingo Moreyra.

MARRIAGE IN SAN JUAN DE PUERTO RICO... BIRTH OF THE CLTTC

On 3-7 December 2001, the city of San Juan de Puerto Rico hosted a joint seminar of the CLTC and the FLATT. The seminar preceded the extraordinary congresses of both organi-

sations as well as their Merger Congress, which resulted in the constitution of the *Confederación Latinoamericana de Trabajadores del Transporte y las Comunicaciones* – CLTTC (Latin American confederation of transport and communication workers).

Fifty-six delegates from fourteen Latin American countries took part in this event.

The opening session had a strong political impact on account of the presence of the governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Mr Sila María Calderón, who pointed the efforts of the Puerto Ricans to strengthen their identity as a people and a nation and sang the praises of the CPT (affiliated to the WCL) and the CLAT for their social positions and actions.

The participants in the joint seminar analysed and studied the changes in the world of work, the new technologies in their sectors and the sectoral action worldwide and in Latin America.

The delegates at the two extraordinary congresses ratified the agreements that had been concluded prior to merger, and laid the foundation of the single organisation. The subsequent Merger Congress was chaired by Annie Cruz Roque, chairwoman of the *Hermandad Independiente de Empleados Telefónicos de Puerto Rico* – HIETEL (independent brotherhood of Telephone Employees of Puerto Rico), assisted by Pedro Miguel Rodríguez and Manuel Ramírez, representing the CLTC and the FLATT respectively. As chairwoman of this historical Congress she was assisted, further, by Freddy Pools and Eduardo García Moure, representing FIOST and the CLAT respectively. The Merger Congress adopted the new organisation's (CLTTC) Declaration of Principles, Platform of Demands, Plan of Action and Statutes, and it approved the affiliation of all its member organisations to FIOST, the CLAT and the WCL. It elected, further, the new Executive Committee with Jorge Soria as president and Juan Carlos Schmid as secretary-general.

Pedro Miguel Rodríguez was appointed honorary president of the new organisation in acknowledgement of his years of struggle, his extensive knowledge and his commitment to the sector.

TRADE UNIONISTS ARE NO TERRORISTS...

"...Ever since the deplorable 11 September events, attempts have been made to impose a new polarisation. The fact that some self-declared advocates of democracy, justice and peace have recourse to violence does not mean that everybody who legitimately stands up for the workers' rights should be labelled as a ter-

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rorist", affirmed Luis Enrique Marius in his address to the Continental Conference which the ORIT organised on 10-11 December 2001 in Lima, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association. He pointed out the essential role the Committee has played in the struggle for respect for the workers' and women workers' rights, a task that has often been difficult and sometimes even impossible, but always indispensable to guarantee the freedom of association and action of the workers' organisations. He also mentioned the Agreement on Unity in Action, which the CLAT and the ORIT signed last year with the end in view of taking, with due respect for one another's identity, concerted actions for the benefit of the Latin American workers.

The deputy secretary-general of the CLAT also affirmed again the importance of strengthening the role of the ILO to guarantee and deepen the tripartite dialogue and consultations and to ensure that way the existence of a genuine rule of law.

BREAKDOWN OF THE PEACE DIALOGUE IN COLOMBIA

In a press statement dated 9 January, the Executive Committee of the CGTD from Colombia, affiliated to the WCL, deplores deeply the breakdown of the peace dialogue that started three

years ago between the government and the FARC-EP.

The CGTD calls on the parties involved to show a patriotic attitude, to pursue the common interest and to relinquish their arrogant and bellicose attitudes. The Colombian organisation demands the establishment of a sincere peace process guaranteeing the establishment of genuine democracy and of social, economic and political justice.

The statement of the CGTD and the intervention of foreign mediators have induced the parties involved to resume the talks.

Schedule of activities

04/02/02 : Conference 40th anniversary DEOK, Nicosia, Cyprus
04-08/02/02 : FAO: 22nd Regional Conference on Africa, Cairo, Egypt
04-08/02/02 : WSM/DOAWTU: programme assessment, Lomé, Togo
06-09/02/02 : 14th Congress of the CGIL, Rimini, Italy
07/02/02 : International Forum for Social Development, United Nations, New York, United States
10/02/02 : BSSF Transport Federation: 4th National Congress, Dhaka, Bangladesh