

**TRADE UNIONS WANT TO COOPERATE
ON CONFLICT PREVENTION!**

From September 24th to 27th, Brussels hosted the week of the social preventive diplomacy, a joint initiative of ACV-CSC, ABVV-FGTB and ACLVB-CGLSB, the three main Belgian confederations. The initiative got support from the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs. Several representatives of WCL affiliates attended the meeting, of which it is hoped that it will have a sequel. Among the participants figured Shouket Ali of APTUC, Rekson Silaban of SBSI, Anton Lodwick from Sri Lanka, Pepe Pinsón from Guatemala, Mauro Silva of CAT-Brazil and representatives from Ivory Coast and Senegal. The important meeting led to the following conclusions: «*Conflicts are the expression of fundamental problems such as unequal distribution of wealth, corruption, impunity, misgovernment... Trade unions have acquired experience in conflict management. This appears from the millions of collective agreements they signed to improve the living and working conditions of the workers and their families, and from the other trade union actions*».

**WCL CALLS FOR JUST AND LASTING
PEACE IN PALESTINE**

Violence remains a constant in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. That is why the World Confederation of Labour has called once again for just and lasting peace in the region. According to the WCL, the military invasions of the Israeli, the constant acts of violence against the Palestinian people and the acts of terror killing innocent civilians on both sides are unacceptable. The hope of peace is vanishing into smoke. There are lots of casualties in both camps. The World Confederation of Labour condemns the new escalation. It also criticises the wall Israel is building in the region, which robs the farmers of access to their land, tears families apart and nips every hope of peace in the bud. The WCL repeats that only observance of the United Nations resolutions and the deployment of a UN-led International Peace and Protection Force can bring peace and stop the violence. The UN resolutions provide that the Palestinian people has a right to its own territory and state.

LIBYAN TRADE UNION VISITS THE WCL

From September 23rd to 27th, a three strong delegation of the Libyan trade union «*Union Générale des Producteurs de la Jamahiriya Arabe Libyenne*» (UGPJAL)

was on a visit at the WCL. The Deputy Secretary General and the Director of the international department of the UGPJAL, accompanied by the Secretary General of the telecommunications federation, met in Brussels with the members of the WCL's political secretariat, the Trade Action team and the leaders of the various WCL departments. Both delegations exchanged information on the fields of action, the functioning and the priorities of both organisations. The UGPJAL was constituted in 1956 and has now 500,000 members, spread over 17 trade federations. Its latest Congress elected democratically a completely new team. Libya is going through a transition period: the raising of the trade embargo will entail changes, and the opening of the Libyan to the global market will no doubt influence the living and working conditions of the Libyan people. The UGPJAL intends to act proactively upon this and to make sure that the liberalisation of the market will not jeopardise the workers' rights. The organisation also wants to be surrounded and guided at the international level, for which it requests the WCL's cooperation. The Libyan delegation invited the WCL to its country to get better acquainted with the situation and the UGPJAL, its priorities and actions.

**UNEMPLOYMENT AND POOR HEALTH
CARE IN POLAND**

Health care in Poland is doing poorly. The financial situation is disastrous, and there is no structural plan whatsoever. Despite the insistence of the trade union NSZZ Solidarnosc, affiliated to the WCL, and medical organisations, the Polish Ministry of Public Health shows no sign of developing a thorough restructuring plan for the sector. As a consequence, workers risk being left unpaid, and seriously ill patients will have to wait for treatment during months. Solidarnosc continues to challenge this unbearable situation at the Tripartite Committee for Social and Economic Affairs until the government turns up with an acceptable emergency plan. Also the Polish miners keep standing up for their rights. Some time ago, they demonstrated in front of the building of the Coal Holding – a company that employs around 24,000 workers all over the country – to demand the observance of the collective agreements.

In Silesia, near the German border, unemployment is already up to 30%. The trade unions handed the local authorities petitions in demand of measures.

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Responsible editor:
Willy Thys
Information officer:
Mathieu Debroux.

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WCL

Trierstraat 33
B-1040 Brussels
Phone: 02/285.47.00
Fax: 02/230.87.22
E-mail:
info@cmt-wcl.org
Internet:
www.cmt-wcl.org

INDONESIA: ABUSE OF WORKERS IN BIRD'S NEST FACTORY

The F-KUI – the trade federation of the SBSI from Indonesia which protects the rights of the building and informal-economy workers among others and is affiliated to the World Federation of Building and Woodworkers' Unions (WFBW) – has informed the WCL and the WFBW about the problematic situation at PD. Jaya Bersama. This



At Jaya Bersama in Indonesia, the entire staff of the factory union PK F-KUI were dismissed then and there.

company harvests the «swallow's nests» that are so much appreciated in the Chinese kitchen, and renders itself guilty of workers' rights violations. They employ children, and transport allowances, social security, a pension fund and maternity leave are nonexistent. The company also exerts pressure on the workers to sign contracts of limited duration. On top of this it does not respect the freedom of association. After 47 workers had constituted the factory union PKF-KUI, they were immediately intimidated and threatened by the owner and employer. Eleven workers, among them the entire staff of the PK F-KUI, were dismissed then and there. The minister of Labour summoned the workers and the managers, but the latter never showed up... Upon this, the WFBW and the WCL sent letters of protest to the Indonesian Minister of Labour. They also protested with the management of PD. Jaya Bersama, demanding to put an end to the violations of the freedom of association and to see to it that the child workers are given the opportunity to attend a vocational training.

DAWU MOURNS FEDELINE MOULON

Sadly we have to inform you of the death on 4 September of Fedeline Moulon – general secretary of the DAWU, «Dominica Amalgamated Workers» organisation of Dominica, a Caribbean island – affiliated with the WCL. In the Seventies she started her trade union career at the DAWU, then one of the most important trade unions in the country, particularly active in the banana industry. In 1994 she was appointed general secretary. Fedeline was completely devoted to the fate of the workers. Until her death, she led a relentless fight for the rights of female domestic workers and maintained continuous pressure to modify the legislation on this subject. Fedeline was 53 years old. On September 17th, the DAWU Board unanimously appointed Mrs Elias Leah Shillingford her successor. For the time being she is the acting Secretary General. The WCL wishes her and the DAWU team every

success with the protection of the workers' rights on the Caribbean island!

TOGOLESE TRADE UNION REVITALISED WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

After the 2001 Congress, the «Confédération Syndicale des Travailleurs de Togo» (CSTT) decided to revitalise its National Women's Committee (CNF). Its aim is to increase the participation of women at all decision levels of the confederation, to promote the women's rights, to train and sensitise women and to raise female trade union membership. The CSTT has already taken several initiatives. Thus, it organised a day of reflection on «women and leadership», upon which the Women's Committee for Safety and Health at Work was set up. And on the occasion of the African Women's Day, on July 31st, it organised a debate on «women and trade unionism». Another priority of the CSTT is to reduce the poverty among women in Togo. Thus, with the help of the WCL Women and Work Department, the Relief Fund for Women in the Informal Economy saw the day of light. A lot remains to be done to improve the position of the Togolese women, but the CSTT has laid a solid foundation for the future...

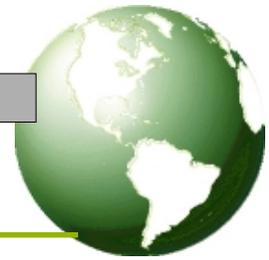
EURO-DEMONSTRATION SUCCESSFUL

The Euro-demonstration the ETUC organised on October 4th in Rome – simultaneously with the Inter-Governmental Conference – was a great success. Between one hundred and two hundred thousand representatives of trade unions and social organisations took part in this demonstration for a socially inspired European legislation benefiting all the workers. «We must go towards a Europe in which each worker can count on work, a pension and decent rights. A Europe in which trade unions jointly stand up against unbridled capitalism. A future in which the focus is on democracy, collective bargaining and tolerance», stressed John Monks, Secretary General of the ETUC, in his address.

Schedule of activities

- November 06th-07th: Euro-Mediterranean summit for economic and social councils, Malta;
- November 07th: World Bank seminar on the global and economic market, Washington – United States;
- November 11th-12th: European Trade Union Forum, Paris – France;
- November 12th-15th: European Social Forum, St.-Denis/Paris – France;
- November 15th-22nd: WFBW world seminar, Ostend – Belgium;
- November 24th-25th: FIOST World Board, Ostend - Belgium;
- November 24th - December 12th: WCL–IIWE seminar on the informal economy;
December 10th: Open forum on the informal economy, Overijse / Brussels – Belgium.

**Please consult our annual schedule on:
www.cmt-wcl.org**



Trade Action

OCTOBER 5TH: WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Within living memory teachers worldwide have shown the way to knowledge, opening so the door to freedom and progress. Unfortunately, through history, this access has remained closed to most people... until the modern idea of Education For All emerged. From that moment education was no privilege for those better off anymore, but penetrated every section of society: in the cities, the suburbs and villages alike, teachers shared the hopes and despair both of poor and of rich. Through their commitment they gave individuals and communities new opportunities and paved the way towards the world as we know it today. Yet, this world is still capable of much improvement! Above all things everybody, without any discrimination, must get access to education.

Teachers must be recognised and given the opportunity to perfect themselves so that they can provide everybody with quality education. Education also means: prepare young people for the active, responsible role they have to play in the democratic society, and to preserve them from intolerance, hatred and violence. In other words, investing in education and in good teachers is tantamount to investing in the future! Teachers who are already working must therefore be encouraged, and education must be attractive to young, devoted teachers.

On the occasion of World Teachers' Day, the World Confederation of Teachers (WCT) stressed again its firm belief in teachers who, like doorkeepers, can open the door to a better world.

Please visit www.wctcsme.org for the complete WCT declaration and a joint UNESCO – ILO – UNDP and UNICEF declaration.

ABSOLUTE FREE TRADE MUST GO HAND IN HAND WITH ABSOLUTE FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION, SAYS THE IFTC

Almost one hundred trade union delegates from all over the world discussed the announced absolute free trade (2005) in the textile and clothing industry during the IFTC Congress in Doorn (the Netherlands), from September 25th to 27th. Globalisation has already resulted in a lot of industry being relocated to low-wage countries and free trade zones. In Honduras, Mexico and Indonesia, for instance, thousands of people – chiefly women – are working for very low wages in miserable circumstances. Trade unions are banned or threatened there, kept out of the factory gates. Absolute free trade will even strengthen this trend...

The response of the workers to this is absolute freedom of association as a weapon against exploitation. Only worldwide measures to enforce the observance of the Conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) can call a halt to the exploitation in the sector. That is why the ILO must be able to play a more prominent regulating role than is the case today. International action must compel the national governments to treat the ILO standards equally in value



IFTC Congress in Doorn (the Netherlands)

to the free trade standards. Claude Akpokavie of ACTRAV, the ILO's Activities for Workers department, encourages the Congress delegates not to hesitate to file complaints when the core labour standards are violated. In conclusion of its proceedings, the IFTC Congress adopted a ten-point plan to respond to the above-mentioned developments. It must lead to stronger regional organisations, better coordinated worldwide activities, a stronger World Board and International Secretariat, more cooperation with other international trade federations in areas like missions, seminars and research, more support from the WCL, closer cooperation with the ILO and a better mutual communication.

The Congress also elected a new World Board: the new President is Dirk Uyttenhove (ACV-CSC Textura – Belgium) and the new Secretary General Jaap Jongejan (CNV Bedrijvenbond – the Netherlands).

THIRD WFAFW CONGRESS IN SPAIN

On September 26th and 27th, Madrid (Spain) was the venue of the 3rd WFAFW Congress, preceded by a European seminar on «Social Dialogue and



Communication in the Trade Union Movement». The Congress elected Carlos Ancizar Rico President and Timothee Boko Secretary General. The delegates passed resolutions on genetically manipulated organisms (GMOs), the status of temporary workers, tourism (sex tourism, sexual exploitation of children...), the enlargement of the European Union, sustainable development and freedom of association. It was also decided to strengthen the WFAFW's structures and to pursue financial autonomy.

GARTEKS ELECTED YOKO ARI NEW PRESIDENT



The Congress of GARTEKS assembled in Indonesia from August 13th to 16th. GARTEKS is the textile federation of the confederation SBSI. The Congress elected former Yoko Ari its new President.

FIOST DEMANDS UNAMBIGUOUS EUROPEAN REGULATIONS FOR ROAD TRANSPORT

During the latest European Board meeting of FIOST, it appeared clearly in the road transport section that transport workers from Eastern and Western Europe are confronted with the same problems. Above all things, there are the independent drivers, who create «unfair» competition in the sector, jeopardising so the rights and working circumstances of the wage-earning workers. There is in Europe an urgent need for unambiguous regulations, especially with regard to the driving and rest times. One of the possible measures is, for instance, the installation of a digital tachograph in vehicles of less than 3.5 tons. That way express couriers and messengers are taken up in a control system, and something can be done about their miserable and hazardous working circumstances. It would benefit not only their safety, but also the one of other citizens and road users.

In line with the decisions of Casablanca – which announced the strengthening of WCL Trade Action in Latin America, Africa and Asia – the road transport section of FIOST decided to set up a European

project to arrive at regulations that encompass all the sector's areas of attention: collective agreements, pensions and pension funds, social well-being, privatisation... According to FIOST, these regulations must apply to all the member and applicant countries of the European Union. This draft project will be elaborated and refined at a meeting in November.

WFCW ATTENDS ILO MEETING ON THE EFFECTS OF MERGERS AND TAKE-OVERS

A delegation of the World Federation of Clerical Workers (WFCW) recently attended a tripartite meeting on the «effects of mergers and take-overs on the employment in the commercial sector». It was the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) that convened this meeting within the framework of the «Sectoral Meeting Programme for 2002-2003». The participants examined whether mergers and take-overs had a favourable effect on the employment or not, and the best way to reduce and control redundancies in such situations. They discussed, further, strategies to strengthen the social dialogue and make bilateral consultations

possible. In conclusion of the meeting, action proposals on this subject were formulated for the governments, the employers' and workers' organisations, and the ILO. Koffi Chrysante Zounnadjala (PFCW Secretary General) and Maritza Chireno (President of Fetralcos) represented the WFCW.

“PRESS & PUBLICITY” TRAINING SESSIONS FOR TRADE UNION OFFICIALS

Within the framework of the Capacity Building part of the VERBA (Strengthening of Trade Action) project, WCL Trade Action will organise early next year «Press & Publicity» training sessions for trade union officials who are in charge of communication and publicity in their organisations. The schedule provides for two one-week seminars in Asia and Africa, and for three in Latin America. 105 trainees in all will be trained to become experts in the various continents. They will advise and support the national Trade Action officials in their communication with members and potential members, and with society (eg goodwill actions and social support). This is essential to strengthen worldwide the base of the trade union movement. The training sessions are given by a qualified training bureau with professional trainers. After the sessions the trainees will also be able to support their colleagues who took part in Capacity Building, Informal Economy and Multinationals programmes in developing a communication strategy.