

**“PREPARATORY TECHNICAL CONFERENCE”: ILO MOVES TO CONSOLIDATE LABOUR STANDARDS**

The “Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference”, hosted by the International Labour Office (ILO) is to consider a new draft Convention for the maritime industry with a view to its adoption by the Maritime Session of the



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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

International Labour Conference by the end of 2005 or the beginning of 2006. Delegates to the Technical Conference will work to combine elements of all relevant standards approved in the framework of the ILO, including 30 Conventions, 29 Recommendations and 1 Protocol. More than 1.2 million seafarers work for the world’s shipping industry. One of the goals of the ILO is to bring the system of labour protection already contained in existing standards closer to the workers concerned “in a form that is consistent with this rapidly developing, globalised sector”. One of the goals of the Conference is to make the new instrument available to ship-owners and governments, in order for them to provide for decent conditions of work and ensure that maritime workers are protected. (Source: ILO)

**For more information: [www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org)**

**ECONOMIC SECURITY STRENGTHENS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

According to a new study by the International Labour Office (ILO), economic security promotes personal well being, happiness and tolerance, while benefiting national growth and development. The ILO report, “Economic Security for a Better World,” includes estimates for countries representing more than 85 per cent of the world’s population, and says such economic security - combined with democracy and government spending on social security - not only benefits growth but can also promote social stability. The report cautions, however, that economic security remains out

of reach for the vast majority of the world’s workers, about three-quarters of whom live in circumstances of economic insecurity that fosters what the report calls “a world full of anxiety and anger”. Only 8 per cent of people live in countries providing favourable economic security, said the survey produced by the ILO’s Socio-Economic Security Program. “Coming shortly after the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation, this book should enrich the debate on how we can build a fair globalisation”, says ILO Director-General Juan Somavia. “Unless we can make our societies more equal and the global economy more inclusive, very few will achieve economic security or decent work”. The report marks the first attempt to measure global economic security as perceived by ordinary people and was based on detailed household and workplace surveys covering over 48,000 workers and more than 10,000 workplaces worldwide. Economic security is measured on the basis of seven forms of work-related security including income, labour markets, employment, skills, work, jobs and representation. (Source: ILO)

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**AFRICAN SOCIAL PARTNERS’ FORUM: PEACE AND SECURITY ARE INDISPENSABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE CREATION OF DECENT WORK**

On 3-4 September, Ouagadougou hosted the African Social Partners’ Forum. The conclusions were elaborated by representatives from employers’ and workers’ national organisations, together with the Pan-African Employers’ Confederation (PEC), the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), the African Regional Organisation (AFRO), and the Democratic Organisation of African Workers’ Trade Unions (DOAWTU). Such conclusions are mainly addressed to African Heads of State and Government. The African social partners reasserted their firm commitment to social dialogue and their common will to promote decent work, job creation and poverty reduction. Therefore, they call on governments to promote social dialogue “based on freedom of association and collective bargaining, as a driving force behind the socio-economic development {of Africa}”. In other words, they encourage governments to promote decent work, among others, as defined by the ILO, to make it a global and an African aim, and to place it at the heart of socio-economic policies; to promote integrated development strategies to tackle

poverty through a comprehensive macroeconomic and social policy framework; to focus on highly productive and employment-intensive sectors with particular attention to the agricultural sector, education, health, human resource development, culture, tourism; to actively promote gender mainstreaming in socio-economic policy as a basis for the application of basic human rights and a means of empowering women in Africa, and to respect the fundamental rights of workers without which no sustainable human development is possible.

To access the whole text with the conclusions:

[www.cmt-wcl.org](http://www.cmt-wcl.org).

### THE CMTU HAS A NEW SECRETARY GENERAL

The Confederation of Malta Trade Unions (CMTU), our affiliate in Malta, announced - early in September- the election of Brother Anthony Micallef Debono as new the Secretary General of the organisation, after the retirement of its predecessor, Brother Charles Magro. Brother Micallef Debono comes from the education sector. He worked as a teacher for 28 years and is part of the trade union movement since 1970, when he was a student of the "St Michael's College of Education". He is also a member of the International Secretariat of the Malta Union of Teachers. We would like to thank Brother Charles Magro for the excellent work carried out through these years and we wish Brother Micallef Debono good luck.

### THE WCL ON THE WEB!

That's it! The WCL has a new Web page! Technology progresses and Web pages have become a "must" for many organisations, including the WCL. This has been a step-by-step process, and we can now see the third



version of the WCL Web page. This time the main goal is to give the Web page a less institutional look and highlight the "news" aspect. In order to do so, we no longer focus on departments, but on issues (child labour, international labour standards, migrants for employment, etc.). This is YOUR Web page. You are welcome to send us information on the activities of your organisation, and we will do our best to process and publish it. All your comments –positive or negative– as well as your suggestions are most welcome. You just need to use the on-line Webmaster form or send an e-mail to the members of the Press and Information Department: [mathieu.debroux@cmt-wcl.org](mailto:mathieu.debroux@cmt-wcl.org) and [stijn.germeijs@cmt-wcl.org](mailto:stijn.germeijs@cmt-wcl.org).

### COMPLAINTS

#### Argentina: Aggression against Secretary of ATE

According to information provided by the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders – a joint program of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) –, Brother Juan Eduardo Riquel, member of the Colombian Civil Servants Union (ATE), was kidnapped and ill-treated by police officers of Casteló, province of El Chaco,



where he lives. The WCL expresses its strong support to Argentinean human rights organisations. In a letter sent to the Argentinean government, the WCL asks for the necessary political, administrative and legal measures to be taken in order to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of Eduardo Riquel. This international trade union organisation hopes that all kinds of efforts will be deployed to identify and punish the people responsible.

#### Colombia: Extrajudicial execution and arbitrary detention of trade union leaders in Arauca

In Colombia, violence against trade unionists is commonplace. Brothers Jorge Eduardo Prieto Chamusero, President of the Colombian Health Workers' Trade Union (ANTHOC), Héctor Alirio Mariñez, President of ADUC, and Leonel Goyeneche, from the CUT, were the targets of such violence, within unclear circumstances. That is why the WCL asked Colombian President Álvaro Uribe Vélez that an investigation be opened immediately, so as to establish the truth.

### Schedule of Activities

#### October 2004

- 01-02: WFIW / International Foundation of Miners – General Assembly (Germany);
- 04-05: IMO / World Bank / WTO, Seminar on Trade and Migration (Geneva)
- 05-06: UNO / DESA – Forum for Social Development (New York);
- 06-08: WCL-ICFTU visit to IMF and World Bank (Washington);
- 10-12: European Section (12 October 2004) + European Seminar: "Consolidation of WCL European organisations. New challenges and trade union response" (Brussels);
- 18-23: WCL Confederal Board (Casablanca);
- 28-30: CNS Cartel Alfa (Romania) – 6th National Congress (Bucharest);
- 29-30: CLAC (Canada) – 2004 National Convention (London / Ontario).