

**WCL AND ISF LAUNCH
SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN IN ASIA**

The disaster of 26 December last has led WCL and the International Solidarity Foundation to launch a solidarity campaign in favour of Asia. The tidal wave and its consequences have made at least 150,000 victims, without counting the injured and missing people. Several WCL affiliates have been

affected, among them SBSI (Indonesia), NWC (Sri Lanka) and ICL (India). Thousands of workers are left without a job. The funds raised during the campaign will be used to help the local trade unionists to reorganise themselves, to restore favourable working conditions and to boost the economy in the region. You can transfer your donations to the bank account of ISF, mentioning "Solidarity Asia".

TELE-FLASH

is a monthly information bulletin containing brief trade union messages, edited by the information department of the WCL.

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MICRO-CREDIT CAMPAIGN WELL RECEIVED

According to Juan Somavia, Director General of ILO, the success of micro-finance is essential for job creation and poverty reduction in the world. He has well received the report on the global micro-credit campaign 2004, which was intended to reach around 100 million people among the poorest families in the world so to give them access to micro-credit in 2005. It is indeed the international year of micro-credit for the United Nations. According to the report, the campaign has already helped millions of families, around 274 million people, by letting self-employed workers benefit from various credits and various financial and commercial services. "The success of micro-finance institutions worldwide, from Bangladesh to

Bolivia, from Uganda to the Philippines, shows the importance of the role micro-credit plays in pulling out of poverty", Juan Somavia stated on this occasion: "The system favours self-employment and enables those engaged in it to extend their activities and to hire staff." In the past decade, ILO has paved the way for many applications of micro-finance: the link between transfers of funds of salaried workers and micro-finance after the end of a conflict, micro-insurance, micro-action... This year, it will no doubt participate in many activities related to this theme.

For further details on the campaign report: www.microcreditsummit.org, www.ilo.org

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM IS NEARING FAST!

The traditional World Social Forum of Porto Alegre will take place on 26-31 January next. The trade union presence at the



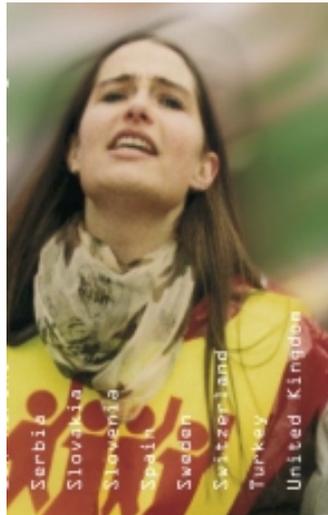
Forum has grown year after year. On this occasion, WCL with ICFTU, ETUC, CLAT and ORIT will organise prior to the Forum the 4th World Trade Union Forum. This year's Forum, about the "Future of international trade unionism", is scheduled for 25 January in the afternoon and 26 January in the morning. Like every year, the World Trade Union Forum invites all the trade unionists present at the Forum. In the context of the programme of the World Social Forum, WCL, ICFTU and ETUC, jointly with Solidar, Social Alert and Global Progressive Forum, will organise from 27 to 30 January a Conference with nine seminars on the social dimension of globalisation. The participants in the seminars will discuss the conclusions of the Report of the ILO World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation, "**For a Fair Globalisation**". Speakers at the Conference will be Juan Somavia, Director General of ILO, and the general secretaries of the organisations promoting the event. The complete programme will be available before long on the website of WCL: www.cmt-wcl.org

A WOMEN'S NETWORK IN INDONESIA

IWULAF (*Indonesian Women Union Leader and Activist Forum*) is a network set up by women trade union leaders in Indonesia (SBSI, SPN, KPI, SP PAR, ASPEK, SP KEP, SP FARKES, FNBI, SBI Perjuangan and Kahutindo). SBSI is the affiliate of WCL in Indonesia. Its representative, Mrs Sulistri Afrileston, currently coordinates IWULAF. The main goal of this network is to build the capacities of women trade unionists with a view to their effective participation in their trade union organisations. Last December, IWULAF organised a seminar, which was attended by 21 participants, among whom women of SBSI. The themes of the seminar were centred on the mastery of concrete tools such as data collection, project development (aims of the action, resources, analysis of the organisation...). Another theme was communication: how to prepare a press statement, a sensitisation campaign... A technical seminar like this one is very important to the extent that inequalities and difficulties of women remain a reality. For further details please contact the Equality Department of WCL: kattia.paredes@cmt-wcl.org

NEXT EURO-DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED FOR 19 MARCH

On 13 December 2001, more than 100,000 trade unionists took part in the big demonstration the European Trade Union Confederation – ETUC – organised in Brussels. The many activists expressed themselves peacefully in favour of a social Europe that guarantees employment and the workers' rights. The World Confederation of Labour lent its full support to this action and participated in large numbers in this important event. The next European



Summit will be held in Brussels on 22 and 23 March next. It will no doubt be fundamental for the future development of Europe and for the Lisbon strategy. This strategy constitutes a commitment to an economic, social and environmental revival in the European Union. According to the EU, a stronger economy will give an impetus to job creation and favour social and environmental policies that ensure sustainable development and social cohesion. The Executive Committee of ETUC has decided to organise on this occasion a new Euro-demonstration, on 19 March 2005. The themes advanced during that demonstration would be:

- more employment and better jobs in Europe,
- quality jobs and services – no to the Bolkestein directive,
- yes to the basic social rights so to build a social Europe.

WCL fully supports this initiative and will be present

on 19 March. The international trade union calls on its affiliates to be present in large numbers on that day. For further details on the Euro-demonstration please contact Antonio Moreira at ETUC: amoreira@etuc.org

THE SOUTH AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF NATIONS IS BORN

On 9 December last was born, in Cuzco in Peru, the South American Community of Nations (CSN). CSN integrates Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela. This Community could become the third world economic bloc, with huge mineral and oil reserves, energy resources and drinking water. It would also be the first food producer and exporter. The idea, in the future, would be to add to these ten countries all the countries constituting Latin America, namely CSN plus Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico. According to USO, our Spanish affiliate, this integration would open on the international scene a very important economic, social, cultural and geopolitical space that could go in three directions: "*the improvement of the living, working and learning conditions for a large part of the men and women of Latin America, the possibility of establishing a fairer balance in the economic, commercial and political relations with the United States, contrary to what FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas) proposes, and the contribution to the development of a juster globalisation that is not based on the neo-liberal model, according to which the economy is the centre of everything*". The World Confederation of Labour supports this concept of a juster globalisation in which social justice becomes a priority.

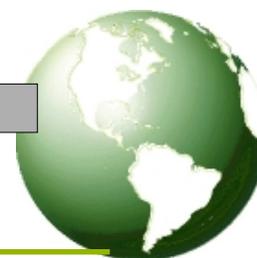
Schedule of activities

January 2005

- 26-31: World Social Forum (Porto Alegre / Brazil);
- 26-30: World Economic Forum (Davos / Switzerland).

February 2005

- 05-06: WCL – Executive Committee (Brussels);
- 07-09: UNCTAD – *World Summit on the Information Society: Thematic Meeting on Measuring the Information Society* (Geneva);
- 09-18: UN – Commission for Social Development (New York);
- 14-18: ILO – European Conference (Budapest);
- 14-18: DOAWTU – Executive Committee (Lomé / Togo)
- 24: ICL/India – Mobilisation (New Delhi);
- 28/02 - 04/03: UN – *Intergovernmental preparatory meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development* (New York).



Trade Action

CAPACITY BUILDING: TRAINING PROGRAM ON NEGOTIATION TECHNIQUES, PAKISTAN



On November 25th and 26th 2004, in Karachi, Pakistan, local trade union leaders participated in the «negotiation techniques» training program of the capacity building project. By using a training manual, following the trainers' advice and participating in some role play activities, the participants

improved their negotiation techniques.

The 25 trainees (including 6 women) come from the agricultural, wood and construction, transport, education, textile, tertiary, public and industrial sectors. During the training, Syed Ali Farnam, who had participated in a «Press and Publicity» program last year, dealt with the importance of using communication media when negotiating. Most of the trainees were satisfied with the program and said it was highly useful to improve the work of the local trade union.

LATIN AMERICA SAYS YES TO THE VERBA PROJECT

On November 21st 2004, 25 Latin American leaders of the WCL Trade Action Program gathered in Brasilia, within the framework of CLAT Congress. Bart Bruggeman and Bert van Caelenberg, WFIW President and INFEDOP Secretary General, respectively, also attended the meeting. Jaap Wiene, WCL Deputy Secretary General, suggested that the Congress analyzed and assessed the implementation of the VERBA Project (WCL Trade Action) in Latin America. First, Jaap Wiene dealt with the creation and implementation of the project. Then, he expressed satisfaction with the excellent work of the trainers, the level of the trainees and the outstanding organization and implementation of the projects by the Latin American team. However, according to Jaap Wiene, it is necessary to pay more attention to the 180 additional activities that the trainers must organize at the local level, for so far, only 53 of them have been carried out. Finally, the WCL Deputy Secretary General wonders whether the federations' leaders are adequately informed and involved in the program development.

The Congress also dealt with the issue of the implementation of the informal economy, multinationals and Press and Publicity programs, as well as their complementarity, which is of the essence. The CLTTC, the transport and communication confederation, highlighted that the VERBA program was created before the 9/11 terrorist attacks. As a matter of fact, these attacks had far-reaching consequences on security –

especially, in the transport sector- and therefore, such consequences should be taken into account for the further implementation of the program. In general terms, it can be said that the assessment the VERBA project was quite positive. We must then strengthen the VERBA program and consolidate the training of trade unionists, always keeping in mind the creation of a new international trade union.

FIOST ORGANIZES ITS WORLD BOARD AND AN EU SEMINAR IN BRUSSELS

From November 24th to 27th 2004, FIOST organized its World Board meeting, which was preceded by a seminar on European Development, the EU's role in the world and the consequences of the EU enlargement. Arie Oostlander, former member of the European Parliament, made a brief description of the EU historical context and delved into the issue of the integration of new member States. The participants of the seminar were mainly interested in the consequences of the EU directive on the liberalization of services in Europe (the well-known Bolkestein directive), the privatization of the transport sector, as well as the social aspects of the enlargement. During the meeting of the World Board, the different sections (road transport, railways, and air and maritime navigation) debated about their 2005's plan of action. The application for affiliation of a Chilean trade union of traditional fishermen (CONFEPACH) was also approved by the Board.

INFORMAL ECONOMY: SOCIAL PROTECTION IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!

“All workers, without exception, have the right to social protection”. This was the conclusion of Social Alert's conference on informal economy, held from November 29th to December 2nd in Brussels.

Representatives of the five member organizations of Social Alert –an international network aimed at promoting and defending economic and social rights- attended the four-day conference. The WCL representatives, who think that supporting workers in the informal economy is a priority, also attended the conference.

The informal economy, in both rural and urban areas, embraces a wide range of activities. Almost 80% of the economically active population of developing countries belongs to the informal economy. And this phenomenon is also affecting an increasing number of developed countries. Although the rights of informal workers are rarely respected, we think that access to social protection is a right that can no longer be denied. Of course, not everybody agrees with this, especially those who advocate liberalist principles and want to replace solidarity and redistribution with privatized and



individualized services. According to Social Alert, "We must fight for workers to have access to these rights, especially the right to decent work and social protection. This is mainly the task of States (for they are supposed



to protect their citizens' dignity), international institutions, which must help States, for them to respect the Rule of Law, and the civil society, including trade unions and NGO's".

For more information, go to www.socialalert.org or send an email to wim.degroof@cmt-wcl.org

A WFIW DELEGATION VISITS A STEEL MULTINATIONAL COMPANY IN SLOVAKIA

At the beginning of December, a WFIW delegation visited one of the key federations of NKOS Metaal in Kosice, in eastern Slovakia. For a long time, Kosice has been the heart of the Slovak steel industry. Trains from Russia, Ukraine and Poland come here to supply iron ore and hard coal. Giant blast furnaces and logistics companies are settled here, over a territory of 10 km².

So far, the USSteel company has 14,500 employees in Slovakia. After being privatized, the company was bought by the American steel giant USSteel. Three trade unions, including NKOS Metaal, are represented within the company. They usually work together and sign, together, collective labor agreements.

The delegation met NKOS Metaal's President, Brother Milan Beregszázi, who stated that in general terms, the federations are satisfied with their new employer. "Although USSteel is a formidable negotiator, their representatives are quite transparent and they have always honored the agreements concluded", said Milan during the meeting with the USSteel managers and the President of the Metalurg Federation, Brother Mikulás Dul'a. The average salary of the company's workers is significantly higher than the minimum wages established by the law. After the visit, the delegation concluded that, compared to Western European countries, the working conditions within the company have been considerably improved, and that the company has undergone a modernization process after being bought by USSteel. For Kosice, the region's economic capital, the presence of the steel company is of the essence. USSteel is not only the biggest employer and one of the driving forces behind the prosperity of the region, but also a dynamic sponsor of social and cultural activities. Given that there exist low unionization rates among workers, NKOS Metaal is doing its best to raise awareness among workers, which is also a means to protect the workers' future.

WFBW SEMINAR ON SOCIAL DIALOGUE AND LABOR LEGISLATION IN SERBIA

From November 25th to 28th, the Serbian mountain of Zlatibor hosted a seminar on social dialogue and labor legislation. Such seminar was organized by a WFBW affiliate, the *Autonomous Union of Road Maintenance Workers of Serbia*, within the framework of the implementation of the VERBA project.

The seminar was an excellent opportunity to stir those participants who had already participated in the activities on social dialogue and negotiation techniques previously organized by the WFBW.

35 participants, including the presidents of several Serbian trade unions, attended the seminar. Guy Bonnewyn, from the Belgian *CSC Bâtiment et Industrie*, was the main speaker of the seminar. He dealt with the issues of social dialogue and collective labor agreements.

WFCW CONGRESS IN MEDAN: SERVICES SECTOR AND GLOBALISATION

The congress of WFCW took place in Medan – Indonesia from 1 to 5 November 2004 with the organisational help from the WFCW affiliate NIKEUBA, the banking federation affiliated to SBSI.

The main theme of the congress was "The services sector facing the globalisation". The congress was preceded by a world seminar which analysed the following items: outsourcing and offshoring; the problem of the free trade zones; position of labour in the globalised world. The congress had invited guests and speakers from ILO Jakarta, BATU, SBSI and WCL.

WFCW is urging Western companies to take stronger social stance and to adopt clearer ethical guidelines for which subcontractors may be used. Foreign workers, who are the very backbone of the manufacture of Western quality and branded goods, are trapped in debt slavery.

WFCW demands that Western companies focus much more intensively on working conditions at the companies they use as subcontractors; they must require these companies to comply with basic employee rights.

WFCW is determined to fight against this "modern slavery" introduced by some multinationals and is seeking to monitor that multinational companies in the individual countries ensure that basic employee rights are complied with by their subcontractors in all continents.

An important item on the agenda of the congress was the future of WFCW in the face of new challenges and globalisation. The congress passed in unanimity a resolution on the discussions taking place concerning the creation of a new trade union international.

At its Casablanca meeting, in October, the Confederal Board of WCL had decided unanimously to enter upon negotiations with ICFTU with a view to the creation of a new international trade union organisation, open to all independent and democratic trade unions.

The Congress of WFCW fears that this process will harm the values of WCL and its affiliates. It takes the view that only an autonomous and independent WFCW can guarantee these values of freedom, dignity, justice and solidarity.

The congress asked the board of WFCW to present the point of view of the congress at WCL. WFCW will continue to work in WCL as a full member.