

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

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GLOBAL UNIONS TO CALL FOR G8 JOBS AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUS AT PRE-SUMMIT TALKS WITH PRESIDENT PUTIN

Brussels, 5 July 2006 (ICFTU OnLine): As officials tie down the last minute details in preparations for the G8 summit in St Petersburg next week, Russian President Vladimir Putin is to receive a global union delegation in Moscow on July 6.

The delegation of G8 and international trade union leaders, which includes ICFTU General Secretary Guy Ryder, and WCL General Secretary Willy Thys, will be led by John Sweeney in his capacity as President of the Paris-based Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD which represents 66 million trade union members. Sweeney is also head of the American trade union body AFL-CIO.

The unions will urge the Russian head of State to introduce labour rights and jobs into the G8 talks as "transversal issues" in the summit discussions on energy, education and health.

The proximity to the summit venue to countries linked with major rights abuses such as Belarus is hard to overlook, and the unions will press President Putin as G8 leader to insist on respect for workers' fundamental rights. They will also call for more intensive follow-up to past summit commitments on aid and development. One call in particular is expected to touch a nexus of concerns: the suggestion that a G8 working group be established to track progress on tackling the AIDS pandemic.

The trade union statement to be presented to President Putin is available on the TUAC web-site:
http://www.tuac.org/statemen/communiq/G8_StPetersburg2006_E_Whp.pdf

The ICFTU represents 155 million workers in 241 affiliated organisations in 156 countries and territories: <http://www.icftu.org> ICFTU is also a partner in Global Unions: <http://www.global-unions.org>

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