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UNIONS CALL FOR IMF AND ILO TO WORK FOR RECOVERY AND FOR JOBS

Brussels, 10 September 2010 (ITUC OnLine): At a major conference organised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Oslo on September 13, a high-level international union delegation led by ITUC President Michael Sommer and ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow will be arguing that priority must be given to maintaining economic stimulus policies, and achieving a real and sustained economic recovery with jobs at the centre.

"Achieving durable recovery means that the labour market imbalances and inequalities that were a major cause of the crisis must be tackled and prevented. Therefore, recovery must not be built on deregulation but can succeed only if based on policies that can improve well-being for people – on better and more available social protection, on collective bargaining, on higher minimum wages, on more progressive taxation, on green jobs – policies encapsulated in the Global Jobs Pact of the ILO," said ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow, adding "Furthermore, a financial transactions tax is needed to help provide the resources to carry out those policies."

The Conference comes shortly after the release of the OECD's Interim Economic Assessment that signals a likely slowdown in growth to 1.5% in the G7 economies in the second half of the year – see comment by TUAC at: http://www.tuac.org/en/public/e-docs/00/00/07/A0/document_news.phtml

Link to ILO/IMF background document:

http://www.ilo.org/global/About_the_ILO/Media_and_public_information/Press_releases/lang--en/WCMS_144399/index.htm

The ITUC represents 176 million workers in 151 countries and territories and has 301 national affiliates.

Contact: press@ituc-csi.org tel: + 32 2 224 0210

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