Overview of the Development of International Trade Union Organisations

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This following list is to give an overview as comprehensive as possible on the development of the international trade union organisations.

As this overview is also meant to be the framework for building up a database for the Library of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation documenting international trade union organisations' publications, the variety of names used or the variety of names of the organisations or the mentioning of different years of foundation constituted a problem.

The various names often result from divergent translations from different languages; when it comes to deviating years of foundation it is mostly a question of whether the year of the founding resolution or the year of the constitution was chosen.

Libraries try to solve the problem of the varieties of names of organisations or corporations through standardization (GKD – Gemeinsame Körperschaftsdatei *[authority file for corporate names]*) and complementary references to additional common names in the norm files on corporate names of the catalogues, so that the library user will find the desired publication by means of the catalogues even when using different names.

Here we use the English names of the organisations and include them as far as we had been able to gather them from the sources (additional translations of names/titles will be printed in italic type).

In some cases (e.g. FIET or FISTAV), abbreviations originate from the French names. Nevertheless, they will be mentioned here since they are used at an international level. We will state only those abbreviations used by the organisations or in the specialised publications.

International Trade Union Organisations

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

1949 founded after leaving:

> World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
> 1945 founded, 1949 split

emerged from:

> International Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU)
> 1901 founded; 1945 dissolved

International Trade Secretariats / ITS

Education International (EI)
1993 merger of:

International Federation of Free Teachers' Unions (IFFTU)
1951 re-founded

> emerged from:
>
> International Trade Secretariat of Teachers (ITST)
> 1928 founded
>
> > predecessor:
> >
> > Education Workers' International
> > 1920 founded

World Confederation of Organisations of the Teaching Profession (WCOTP)
1952 founded

International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions (ICEM)
1995 merger of:

International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers' Unions (ICEF)

1976 renamed to:

International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers' Unions (ICEF)

1964 renamed to:

International Federation of Chemical and General Workers' Unions (ICF)

predecessor:

International Federation of Industrial Organisations and General Workers' Unions

predecessor:

International Federation of General Factory Workers
1920 founded

predecessor:
[International Secretariat of Factory Workers' Federations]
Internationales Sekretariat der Fabrikarbeiterverbände
1908-1914

[Glass Workers' International]
Internationale der Glasarbeiter
1920 founded

emerged from:

[International Glass Workers' Organisation]
Internationale Organisation der Glasarbeiter
1908 founded

emerged from:

International Secretariat of the Glass Workers
1892 founded

International Federation of Pottery Workers
1906 founded

Miners' International Federation (MIF)
1890 founded

2000 joined by

Universal Alliance of Diamond Workers (UADW)
1905 founded

International Federation of Petroleum and Chemical Workers (IFPCW)
1973 merger with ICF planned, 1974 plans failed, 1975 dissolution

1963 renamed/emerged from:

International Federation of Petroleum Workers (IFPW)
1954 founded

International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)
1952 newly founded (and 1985 recognized as International Trade Secretariat) after splitted off from:

International Organisation of Journalists
1946 founded

emerged from:

International Federation of Journalists
1926 founded
1926 gegründet

International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation (ITGLWF)
1970 merger of:

International Textile and Garment Workers' Federation (ITGWF)
1960 merger of:

International Federation of Textile Workers' Associations (IFTWA)
1893/94 founded

International Garment Workers' Federation (IGWF)
1946 merger of:

International Federation of Hatters
1896 founded

[International Tailors' Federation]
Internationaler Bund der Schneider
1925 merger of:

[International Furriers' Secretariat]
Internationales Kürschner Sekretariat
1894 founded

[International Tailors' Secretariat]
Internationales Sekretariat der Schneider
1896 founded

International Shoe and Leather Workers' Federation (ISLWF)

1946 emerged by transformation of:

International Boot and Shoe Operatives and Leather Workers' Federation (IBSOLWF)
1921 merger of:

International Federation of Saddlers' Union and their Collateral Branches
1906 founded

International Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives and Leather Workers

1907 merger of:

[International Secretariat of Shoemakers]
Internationales Sekretariat der Schuhmacher
1893-1900

[International Secretariat of Leather Workers]
Internationales Sekretariat der Lederarbeiter
1896-1903

1912 joined by

[International Glove Makers' Federation]
Internationaler Verband der Handschuhmacher
1892-1912

Public Services International (PSI)

1958 by renaming of:

International Federation of Unions of Employees in Public and Civil Services

1935 merger of:

International Federation of Workers in Public Services
1907 founded

predecessor:

[International Secretariat of Workers in Public Services]
Internationales Sekretariat der Arbeiter Öffentlicher Betriebe

International Federation of Civil Servants
1925 founded
(1927 withdrawal of the teachers)

International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)

1898 by renaming of:

International Federation of Ship, Dock and Riverside Workers

1896 founded

1906 joined by

International Commission for Railwaymen
1893-1898
1900 organised as an International Trade Secretariat

International Federation of Building and Wood Workers (IFBWW)

1934 merger of (and 1946 newly founded):

Building Workers' International
1903 founded

> Predecessor:
>
> *[International Carpenters' Federation]*
> Internationaler Verband der Zimmerleute
> 1900 founded

International Union of Wood Workers (IUW)
1904 founded

> Predecessor:
>
> *[International Joiners' Union]*
> Internationaler Tischlerbund
> 1883 founded

1946 further joined by:

International Secretariat of Painters and Allied Trades
1911 founded

International Secretariat of Stone Workers
1903 founded

> joined by:
> International Secretariat of Quarrymen and Stone Cutters
> 1902 founded
>
> International Secretariat of Stone Setters
> 1904 founded

International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF)

1904 emerged by transformation of:

International Bureau of Metalworkers
1893 founded

> 1904 joined by:
>
> International Secretariat of Foundry Workers
> 1898 founded
>
> further joined by:
>
> International Secretariat of Enginemen's and Firemen's Unions

International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF)
in the present form since 1994, emerged from:

International Union of Food and Allied Workers Associations (IUF)
1962 emerged from:

International Union of Food and Drink Workers' Associations (IUFD)
1949 transformation and

emerged from:

International Union of Federations of Workers in the Food and Drink Trades
1920 founded

by merger of:

International Federation of Brewery Workers
1896 founded

International Federation of Bakery Workers

International Federation of Meat Workers
1913 founded

1958 joined by

International Federation of Tobacco Workers
1904 founded

emerged from:

[International Committee of Tobacco Workers]
Internationales Komitee der Tabakarbeiter
1889 founded

1961 joined by

International Union of Hotel, Restaurant and Bar Workers
1908 founded

1994 joined by

International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers (IFPAAW)

1959 merger of:

International Landworkers' Federation (ILF)
1920 founded

International Plantation Workers' Federation
1957 founded

Union Network International (UNI)

2000 merger of:

Communications International (CI)

    1997 renamed of:

    Postal, Telegraph and Telephone International (PTTI)
    1920 founded

        predecessor:

        Postal Workers' International
        1911 founded

International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees (FIET)

1973 by renaming of:

International Federation of Commercial, Clerical and Technical Employees (FIET)

    1920 by transformation of:

        International Secretariat

        1910 by transformation of:

        [International Information Office]
        Internationales Informationsbüro
        1904 founded

        further predecessors:

        International Union of Hairdressers
        1907 founded

International Graphical Federation (IGF)
1949 merger of:

    International Typographers' Secretariat
    1892 founded

    International Federation of Lithographers, Lithographic Printers and kindred Trades
    1896 founded

    International Federation of Bookbinders
    1910 founded

        emerged from:

        International Secretariat of Bookbinders
        1907 founded

Media and Entertainment International (MEI)
1995 renaming of:

International Secretariat for Arts, Mass Media and Entertainment
Trade Unions – International Federation of Trade Unions of Audio Visual Workers

1993 merger of:

International Secretariat for Arts, Mass Media and Entertainment
Trade Unions (ISETU)
1980 renamed of:
(1984-92 as independent section within FIET)

International Secretariat of Entertainment Trade Unions
1965 founded

International Federation of Trade Unions of Audio Visual Workers (FISTAV)
1974 founded

* * *

International Committee of Entertainment and Media Unions (ICEMU)

1992 establishment as a work group of International Trade Secretariats:

International Secretariat for Arts, Mass Media and Entertainment Trade Unions (ISETU)

International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)

and of international professional associations:

International Federation of Actors (FIA)

International Federation of Musicians (FIM)

International Federation of Trade Unions of Audio Visual Workers (FISTAV)

subsequently joined by further International Trade Secretariats:

International Graphical Federation (IGF)

Postal, Telegraph and Telephone International (PTTI)

Further international Trade Union Federations

World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
1945 founded; 1949 split

World Confederation of Labour (WCL)

1968 emerged from (and renamed):

> International Federation of Christian Trade Unions (IFCTU)
> 1920 founded
>
> emerged from:
>
> *[International Secretariat of Christian Trade Unions]*
> Internationales Sekretariat der christlichen Gewerkschaften
> 1908 gegründet