



## **MEETING OF THE IRTUC CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE**

**Brussels, 26 November 2008**

### **REPORT**

#### **1. ELECTIONS**

In accordance with the Internal Regulations of the IRTUCs, following a call for candidates, the remaining alternate members were elected, as IRTUC representatives in the ETUC working groups.

It was agreed that if the effective member cannot attend the meeting, he or she shall contact the alternate member directly, with a view to the latter's replacing him or her.

With regard to the post of alternate on the Executive Committee, it was agreed that Manfred KLÖPPER, President of the IRTUC Co-ordination Committee, should write to the ETUC Statutes Commission with a view to requesting that the statutes of the ETUC be amended to that effect.

#### **2. INTERNAL ORGANISATION**

##### **a) IRTUC work programme 2008-2011**

The Steering Committee proposed adding to the proposed work programme (2<sup>nd</sup> draft) a reference to the current economic crisis.

It was likewise proposed that the objective of the IRTUCs consisting of encouraging the creation of new IRTUCs, in particular between the border regions in the new Member States, as well as in the border regions with Third Countries, be added.

After discussion, the amended text was adopted.

## **b) ETUC campaign**

Presentation by Walter CERFEDA, ETUC Confederal Secretary, on the position of the ETUC on the economic and financial crisis, as well as the actions planned and under discussion within the ETUC bodies.

<http://www.etuc.org/r/1379>

## **c) Euro-demonstration in Strasbourg**

Presentation by Antonio MOREIRA, ETUC Adviser, of the practical aspects of the Euro-demonstration staged in connection with the revision of the working time directive, to be held in Strasbourg on 16 December 2008.

## **d) IRTUC project 'Collective bargaining – cross-border co-operation'**

Reminder of the objectives of the project

Presentation of the progress of the work by the representatives from the 7 IRTUCs concerned, namely:

- IRTUC Friuli-Venezia-Giulia/Slovenia (Italy – Slovenia)
- IRTUC Andalucía/Algarve (Spain – Portugal)
- IRTUC Lombardy/Tessin/Piemonte (Italy – Switzerland)
- IRTUC Viadrina (Berlin-Brandenburg/Lubuskie) (Germany – Poland)
- IRTUC Elbe-Neisse (Germany – Poland – Czech Republic)
- IRTUC Friuli-Venezia-Giulia/Veneto/Croazia Sudoccidentale (Italy – Croatia)
- IRTUC Galicia/Norte de Portugal (Spain – Portugal)

The 7 IRTUCs concerned were asked to present the conclusions of the various seminars at the next meeting of the Co-ordination Committee. It was agreed that the programme for the final Conference should be drawn up on that basis.

## **3. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COHESION**

### **a) Launch of the 2<sup>nd</sup> appeal for projects concerning regional co-operation**

Introduction by Simona POHLOVA, DG Regional Policy, European Commission (see PPT presentation at annex).

At the end of the discussion, which served to clarify certain points relating to the participation and eligibility of the social partners, the meeting was reminded that all useful, up-to-date information was available on the Commission's website at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/interreg3](http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/interreg3)

#### **b) Euroregions – (future) role of the IRTUCs**

This item was held over until a future meeting of the IRTUC Co-ordination Committee. It was agreed that the IRTUCs should let the ETUC Secretariat have examples of experiences and/or activities within the Euroregions as well as compared to the Committee of the Regions.

### **4. PROTECTION OF WORKERS' RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC FREEDOMS**

Recent rulings by the European Court of Justice (Viking Line, Laval, Rüffert and Commission v Luxembourg).

Presentation of the consequences for trade union organisations by Séverine PICARD, ETUC adviser (see PPT presentation at annex).

At the end of the discussion, it was agreed to come back to this subject at a future meeting of the IRTUC Co-ordination Committee.

### **5. EURES**

#### **a) Participation of IRTUCs in the EURES Network**

Following the adoption of the Resolution 'EURES-T: An important tool for the IRTUCs' by the ETUC Executive Committee (Brussels, 24 and 25 June 2008), the meeting was reminded that the following stages are:

- the organisation of the Trade Union Conference on 'Worker mobility and the role of the EURES network' (Brussels, 12 February 2009)
- the examination of the projects presented by the IRTUCs working as partners in a EURES Cross-border Partnership, in the framework of the 2009 Call for Proposals, and the response from the Commission.

The IRTUCs concerned were asked to evaluate the status of the situation with a view to a discussion and the reaching of a decision on the subject at the next meeting of the IRTUC Co-ordination Committee.

#### **b) New/future EURES-T Partnerships**

- A new partnership had been set up between the regions Friuli-Venezia-Giulia and Slovenia.
- An application had been lodged with a view to the setting up of a partnership between the regions Elbe/Neisse (D – PL – CZ).

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