



Education International
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ETUCE

European Trade Union Committee for Education EI European Region

The ETUCE CEE Roundtable, meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 26-28 September 2013,

EUROPEAN REGION- ETUCE

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In light of the resolutions adopted at the [ETUCE Conference in Budapest in 2012](#), notably the Resolutions on the [Financial and Economic Crisis](#) and on the [Teaching Profession](#), taking into account the [ETUCE work programme 2013-2016](#), and in view of the EI global initiative [Unite for Education – Better Quality Education for A Better World](#)

1. Declares that:

- education is a fundamental right and a public good that requires public funding and regulation;
- the highest priority for teacher unions in the CEE countries remains to oppose the harsh and irresponsible austerity measures that most national governments in Europe put in place as a unique response to the financial and economic crisis; These measures not only have a devastating and disproportionate impact on teachers, other education staff and on economically disadvantaged students, but they also attack social and employment rights, anti-discrimination protections and display lack of concerted action by the governments to end poverty under the cloak of economic deficit reduction;
- it remains important to provide sustainable alternative solutions to rigorous cost-saving policies and to raise awareness on the benefits of further investments in education in view of the economic recovery process and positive employment developments.
- decent work which encompasses a fair income, healthy and safe workplaces and social protection for the families, is crucial in order for teachers and other staff in education to provide high quality education.
- quality education for all is a prerequisite for social cohesion and democratic citizenship and includes equal opportunities and fair treatment for students, teachers and the wider workforce in schools.
- teachers and other staff in education are expert practitioners in education and should therefore be fully involved in education policy-making at all levels of power. As recognised social partners, education staff and teacher unions, must be consulted before taking any action in the education policy field.
- therefore governments and local authorities should include teachers and teacher trade unions in developing democratic leadership at school level, which enhances the capacity of schools to innovate and reinforces the confidence of teachers to reflect on and develop their own pedagogical practices.
- the trade union movement as a whole is and will continue to strongly oppose through national and international solidarity any attempt to deny the legitimacy of the teacher trade unions and/or to intimidate their representatives.

2. Asserts the commitment of the teacher unions in the CEE countries to:

- Defend vigorously this declaration in their respective countries and, at European level, through the engagement in a constant constructive political dialogue with national governments, the European Union institutions and the Council of Europe;
- Facilitate a thorough coordination between the ETUCE member organisations from the CEE countries in and outside the European Union, including the exchange of comprehensive information, consultation and productive discussions within the CEE Round table meeting;
- Strengthen the unity of the teacher unions in the CEE countries and at European level through the action of ETUCE and under the umbrella of Education International;
- Ensure that the views of ETUCE member organisations in the CEE countries are actively promoted in all ETUCE/EI decision-making bodies;
- Support the EI *Unite for Education* initiative with the aim to raise awareness that education must be one of the central pillars of the post-2015 international development agenda and to ensure that quality education for all remains at the top of the agenda of governments worldwide. The teacher unions of the CEE countries will join this important global initiative for a better, sustainable and peaceful future.