



Education International  
Internationale de l'Education  
Internacional de la Educaci3n

<http://www.ei-ie.org>

# ETUCE

## European Trade Union Committee for Education EI European Region

### ETUCE Statement

#### EUROPEAN REGION- ETUCE

##### President

Christine BLOWER

##### Vice-Presidents

Odile CORDELIER  
Walter DRESSCHER  
Paula ENGWALL  
Andreas KELLER  
Galina MERKULOVA  
Branimir STRUKELJ



5, Bd du Roi Albert II, 9th  
1210 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel +32 2 224 06 91/92  
Fax +32 2 224 06 94  
[secretariat@csee-etuce.org](mailto:secretariat@csee-etuce.org)  
<http://www.csee-etuce.org>

##### European Director

Martin RØMER

##### Treasurer

Mike JENNINGS

#### To the Danish government

The European Trade Union Committee for Education, ETUCE, representing 132 Teachers Unions in 45 European countries, express our full support to the Danish educators' organisations in relation to the Danish government's interference in the collective bargaining negotiations and the employers' noticed lockout of their members.

The Nordic labour markets – and not least the Danish labour market – build on a long tradition with the parties of the labour market making agreements without any interference from the politicians. This system has proofed its stability for more than 100 years and it has won respect and appreciation all over the world.

It is with great concern that we have learnt that the Danish government is interfering in the free collective bargaining negotiations by presenting a proposal for a school reform that is conditional on a reduction of the teachers' preparation time in the ongoing collective bargaining negotiations.

A free negotiation between the employers and employees is the fundamental essence of a well-functioning labour market – negotiations in which the acting parties enter into mutually binding agreements, of which both parties are responsible.

ETUCE clearly disapproves the Danish government's attack on the free right of negotiation.

The attack on the teachers' working-time will result in less quality in teaching.

- High quality education builds on teachers and educators who are competent, well-prepared and engaged.
- High quality education requires a decent framework for the teachers and time to prepare the teaching.

ETUCE urges the Danish government to leave it to the negotiating parties to negotiate the collective agreement without the government's interference.

For the ETUCE,

Martin Rømer  
European Director

Christine Blower  
ETUCE President

Brussels, 13 March 2013

ETUCE, the European Trade Union Committee for Education represents 132 Teacher Unions in Europe and 12.8 million teachers from all levels of the education sector. ETUCE is a Social Partner in education at the EU level and an Industry Federation within ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation. ETUCE is the European Region of Education International.