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CESI

No. 013 18-11-2004

4th ordinary Congress of CESI

On 3 December 2004 the 4th ordinary Congress of the CESI will take place in Brussels. Around 150 delegates and guests from all over Europe are expected. A reception followed by a dinner, which will take place at the conference hotel on the eve, marks the beginning of the congress.

Besides the re-election of the President, the six Vice-Presidents, the General Secretary, the Treasurer and the appointment of other posts, a modification of the CESI constitution as well as numerous motions from the ranks of the member organizations are on the agenda.

CESI welcomes USI from Portugal as new member

In its meeting of 19 October 2004 the Board of the CESI voted in favour of the affiliation of the Portuguese trade union União dos Sindicatos Independentes (USI) following a presentation by its president Afonso Pires Diz.

The USI is an umbrella organization of nine trade unions from different sectors like banks, communication, railway and energy. Thus, this year the CESI continues its successful expansion.

In addition, the members of the Board dealt with the preparation of the Congress, decided on the budget for 2005, and adopted an opinion on European schools.

General Assembly of European Women's Lobby

The speaker for equal opportunities of the SOC committee, Kirsten Lühmann (dbb, D), as well as the president of the EDUC committee, Monique Cartigny (CSEN, F), participated in the General Assembly of the European Women's Lobby (EWL), which took place in Brussels on 17/18 October 2004.

The newly elected Board which will be in office for the next two years is made up of 24 national representatives and 8 representatives from European Organizations. The Turkish representative obtained observer status. The Board elected the Swedish Kirsti Kolthoff as new president.

Topics under discussion were, amongst other things, violence against women, trafficking of human beings as well as the Beijing action platform which had been established in 1995 during the fourth UN world conference of women.

Next spring the UN will, ten years after this conference and with participation of non-governmental organizations like the EWL, discuss the achievements and the progress made so far (Beijing + 10).

Since early this year the CESI is associated member of the EWL.

Meeting of the Executive Board

On 1 October 2004 the Executive Board of the CESI held its last meeting in Brussels. Its members discussed thoroughly the proposals for a modification of the CESI constitution which had been elaborated by a working group consisting of Klaus Geiser, (EULOS), Rainer Dumont du Voitel (FFPE), Pierre Trausch (CGFP, L), and Helmut Müllers (General Secretary).

Furthermore, the Executive Board adopted a resolution on the assumption of office of the new members of the European Commission in which the CESI demands for a new impetus to the Lisbon strategy and a reinforcement of its social dimension.

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Confédération Européenne des Syndicats Indépendants
European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions ✱ Confederazione Europea dei Sindacati Indipendenti
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EIPA seminar "Social dialogue and public administration"

This was the title of a seminar held on 20 and 21 September 2004 and organized by the European Institute for Public Administration (EIPA) in Maastricht. According to the importance and the topicality of the issue the USSP/CESI was represented by a large delegation during these two days of work: Christian Chapuis (President of the USSP/CESI), Guy Lemoine (Director), Valerio Salvatore (President of the CESI), as well as Willi Russ (Vice-President of the dbb) and Christian Moos (Adviser for the dbb). In the course of the seminar Willi Russ, who had been invited as a speaker, presented the case of Germany.

Social dialogue and public sector – "Human resources" working group

The "Human resources" working group, which had been set up by the Directors General of the public administration, has, upon invitation of the Troika secretariat, held two meetings under the Dutch presidency. On 21 September and on 25 October 2004 the European trade union organizations of the public sector presented their opinions on "lifelong learning". Participants of the CESI were: Monique Cartigny (CSEN, F), President of the EDUC committee, Rainer Dumont du Voitel (FFPE), Vice-President of the USSP/CESI, as well as Christoph Vondenhoff of the General Secretariat. An opinion of the USSP/CESI was handed out to the participants.

Communication from the European Commission on social dialogue

The European Commission has published a communication on the social dialogue between trade unions and employers. The social dialogue is at the heart of Europe's economic and social model, enabling progress on the economic and social fronts. According to the European Commission it can play a key role in helping the EU reach its Lisbon target of becoming the world's most competitive economy by 2010.

On this occasion the CESI repeats its demand for the recognition of trade union pluralism and participation in the social dialogue.

The communication is available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2004/aug/com_final_en.pdf.

Consultation of the European Commission on musculoskeletal disorders

The European Commission is seeking the views of workers' and employers' representatives on how to tackle best the growing problem of musculoskeletal disorders (MSD).

These ailments, which include back pain and repetitive strain injury, are the biggest health and safety problem facing European workers today. Studies show that they affect over 40 million workers in all sectors across the EU and account for 40 to 50 per cent of all work-related ill-health.

The Commission is asking workers and employers to say how they think these gaps in the law at national and Community level should be plugged to prevent such ailments from developing. Workers' and employers' groups have six weeks from 12 November 2004 on to reply to the Commission's paper. More information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2004/nov/musculoskeletaldisorders_en.html.

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Please address your questions and comments to: Jürgen Noack (noack@cesi.org).

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