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Seminar Cartel Alfa – EZA

Bucharest (Romania), 04-06.02.2019

The future of work – a contribution to the ILO's 100th anniversary

With support from the European Commission, an international seminar had been set up by EZA and the trade union confederation Cartel Alfa (Romania) to discuss the different aspects which will have an impact on work as it will take place in the future. New technologies, climatological changes, demographic shifts, globalisation, experts from different European countries, representing trade unions, the ILO, the academic world and EU institutions, had been invited to give their views on questions related to the influence of political visions on work in the future, the ethical dimension of decent work from a religious perspective, the findings of the ILO's Global Commission on the future of work, as well as the role of the European Model of Social Dialogue.



Bert Van Caelenberg, secretary general of Eurofedop, was given the floor to share his opinion on the relationship between political visions and the future of work. It is important for trade unions to have good relations with their political representatives, because these are responsible for taking the decisions.

He also pointed to the important initiative of the European Pillar of Social Rights. In November 2017, the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council jointly adopted the Pillar's 20 principles and rights for creating a fair

and more social Europe.

After indicating that Eurofedop has privileged contacts with MEPs of the EPP (European People's Party) and collaborates with the European Union of Christian Democratic Workers, where workers are given a voice within the EPP, he ended his speech by giving more information on the European Social Charter of the Council of Europe.

Several speakers took the floor on the position as published by the ILO's Global Commission on the future of work ('Work for a brighter future') in January 2019. New forces are transforming the world of work. We have to seize the opportunities this will offer for improving the quality of working lives. Governments, workers' and employers' organisations have to work together for reinvigorating the social contract. All stakeholders have to take their responsibility for building a just and equitable future of work. Social dialogue can play a key role in making this become reality.



A declaration was issued in conclusion of the seminar.

The 100 years anniversary of the ILO is the time to reaffirm the principles and values which are key to this organisation, based on the recognition of the inherent dignity of labour and the fundamental rights of workers.

Having access to a decent job is an imperative necessity for every man and woman. A decent job paid for by a fair salary with effective social and workers' protection are conditions for giving each citizen, young and old, as well as immigrants and minorities, the opportunity to provide for their needs with regard to food, housing, education and health.

Work, at all stages of the values chain, must be reassessed according to social and environmental criteria and, at all levels, locally, nationally and internationally, genuine social and environmental governance must be set up, so that all actors can decide together on the crucial decisions to be made to combine social, economic and environmental justice. In our globalised world, we want to reiterate the need for maintaining and extending the international labour standards as defined by the ILO.