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PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ

**Eurofedop Seminar
Zagreb (Croatia), 07-08.09.2012**

What progress has social dialogue made in countries of the Western Balkans?

Social dialogue is the way by which the social partners, i.e. the workers and the employers, and this on several occasions together with the public authorities, discuss the way in which they believe society should be organised with a view to achieving decent work for all. In other words, social dialogue is a basic value in the construction of our European society.

The practice of social dialogue has been a tradition in many European countries. In the majority of countries in the Western Balkans, however, this practice is still in its initial phase or is even simply non-existent. With the present seminar, Eurofedop has wanted to give a voice to trade union delegates from the region, to find out about their local situation and what their needs are. Together with delegates from countries where social dialogue has been a tradition since a long time, advices have been given and solutions have been suggested.

Public administration reform is one of the main issues, not only in countries of the European Union, but also and maybe even more explicitly, in countries of the Western Balkans. The European Commission is fully supporting this process and the social partners of the region are invited to take part in it, in particular by the development of efficient social dialogue structures.

All countries of the region have expressed the wish to become member of the European Union. In order to be able to join the Union, the countries of the region have to adapt their legislation to that of the European Union, known as the “acquis communautaire”. Eurofedop is ready to help its members from Western Balkan countries to reach this goal, although it also wishes to underline that, in the end, it will be for those members themselves to make social dialogue happen in their own country.

Thus presentations have been given on the situation of social dialogue in the countries of Denmark, the Netherlands and Malta. Subsequently, the floor has been given to speakers from Slovakia, Croatia, the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, the Republic of Kosovo (under UN security country resolution 1244), Hungary and Romania.

So, as Eurofedop, we wish to underline the need for solidarity with countries of the Western Balkans.

The current crisis hits all countries and in particular countries of the Western Balkans. It has led to the implementation of austerity policies with possible effects on the way society is organised. Thus the crisis was examined at the 24th KGZE (Conference of Trade Union Cooperation in Europe) in Brno, Czech Republic, on 21-24 June 2012. Solutions to the financial crisis were suggested, such as separation between commercial

and investment banks, repayment of bailout money by the financial sector, setting caps to excessive speculative practices,

The answer of Christian trade unionists to the crisis was made clear: it is the social doctrine of the Church. Taxes are seen as instruments for social engineering. The notion of social market economy was extended to that of an “ecosocial market economy” in which equal attention is paid to social, ecological and economic aspects.

The conference was attended by 100 participants from 22 countries. It was organised in joint collaboration with the EU and EZA (European Centre for Workers' Questions).

At the solemn opening session on Friday 07th, the floor was given to prominent speakers from various national and international institutions. Thus the audience was addressed by Fritz Neugebauer, President of Eurofedop, Marko Krištof, Assistant to the Minister of Labour of Croatia in charge of social dialogue, Mag. Andrea Ikić, Ambassador of Austria to Croatia, H.E. Mgr. Franjo Komarica, Bishop of Banja Luka (Bosnia-Herzegovina), , Herbert Metzger, Vice-President of EZA, Ovidiu Jurca, International Labour Organisation, Pierre Jean Coulon, European Economic and Social Committee and Karl-Friedrich Bopp, Council of Europe.

On Friday 07th, Fritz Neugebauer, President of Eurofedop, was received in audience by the Minister of Labour and Pensions System of Croatia.



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PRIOPĆENJE ZA NOVINARE

**Seminar Eurofedopa
Zagreb, 07-08.09.2012.**

Koliko je socijalni dijalog napredovao u državama Zapadnog Balkana?

Socijalni dijalog je način na koji socijalni partneri, radnici i poslodavci, a u nekim prilikama zajedno s 5 javnim vlastima, raspravljaju o načinu na koji vjeruju da bi društvo trebalo biti organizirano u pogledu osiguranja dostojnog posla za sve. Drugim riječima, socijalni dijalog je temeljna vrijednost u izgradnji europskog društva.

Praksa socijalnog dijaloga tradicija je u mnogim europskim zemljama. No, u većini zemalja Zapadnog Balkana tek je u početnoj fazi ili uopće i ne postoji. Ovim je seminarom Eurofedop delegatima sindikata iz regije želio omogućiti da ih se čuje, da se sazna njihova situacija i potrebe. Zajedno s 5 delegatima iz zemalja u kojima je, socijalni dijalog dugogodišnja tradicija, dani su savjeti i predložena rješenja.

Reforma javne uprave jedno je od glavnih pitanja, ne samo u državama Europske Unije, nego, i čak još i izraženije, u zemljama Zapadnog Balkana. Europska komisija u potpunosti podržava ovaj proces, a socijalne partnere u regiji pozivamo da sudjeluju, posebice u razvoju učinkovitih struktura socijalnog dijaloga.

Sve su države regije izrazile želju da postanu članice Europske Unije. Kako bi mogle postati članicama EU-a, države regije moraju prilagoditi svoje zakonodavstvo onome EU-a, poznatom kao "acquis communautaire". Eurofedop je spreman pomoći svojim članicama iz Zapadnog Balkana da dođu do tog cilja, iako također želi naglasiti da će u konačnici ostvarivanje socijalnog dijaloga u njihovim vlastitim zemljama biti prepušteno njima samima.

Zato su održane prezentacije o situaciji u pogledu socijalnog dijaloga u Danskoj, Nizozemskoj i na Malti. Nakon toga su riječ dobili govornici iz Slovačke, Hrvatske, Bivše jugoslavenske republike Makedonije, Srbije, Albanije, Republike Kosova (prema rezoluciji Vijeća sigurnosti UN-a br. 1244), Mađarske i Rumunjske.

Dakle, mi kao Eurofedop želimo naglasiti potrebu za solidarnošću s 5 državama Zapadnog Balkana.

Trenutačna kriza pogađa sve zemlje, a posebice države Zapadnog Balkana. Ona je dovela do primjene mjera štednje s mogućim učincima na način organizacije društva. Stoga se o krizi raspravljalo na 24. KGZE (Konferenciji o suradnji sindikata u Europi) u Brnu, u Češkoj, 21.-24. lipnja 2012. Predložena su rješenja za financijsku krizu, kao primjerice razdvajanje komercijalnih i investicijskih banaka, naplata novca za spas države od financijskog sektora, ograničavanje rizičnih špekulacija, ...

Odgovor kršćanskih sindikata na krizu bio je jasan. To je socijalna doktrina Crkve. Porezi se smatraju instrumentom socijalnog inženjeringa. Pojam socijalne tržišne ekonomije proširen je na pojam "ekosocijalne tržišne ekonomije", u kojemu se jednaka pažnja poklanja socijalnom, ekološkom i gospodarskom aspektu.

Konferenciji je nazočilo 1 00 sudionika iz 22 zemlje. Zajednički su je organizirale EU i EZA (Europski centar za radnička pitanja).

Na svečanom otvaranju u petak 7. rujna riječ su imali ugledni govornici iz raznih nacionalnih i međunarodnih institucija. Tako su se nazočnima obratili Fritz Neugebauer, Predsjednik Eurofedopa, Marko Krištof, pomoćnik ministra rada RH zadužen za socijalni dijalog, mr. Andrea Ikić, veleposlanica Austrije u RH, njegova ekselencija monsignor Franjo Komarica, banjalučki biskup (BiH), Milan Bandić, gradonačelnik Grada Zagreba, Herbert Metzger, dopredsjednik EZA, Ovidiu Jurca, ILO, Pierre Jean Coulon, Europski gospodarski i socijalni odbor, i Kari-Friedrich Bopp, Vijeće Europe.