



Presidential Council Session. ROME 14-15 February 2014

BULLETIN

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IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES TO BE ORGANIZED

Rich, ambitious, targeted Action Plan

The World Federation of Trade Unions loyal to its duty in solidarity with the working people all over the world, focusing on the key issues that concern the workers internationally and promoting the reconstruction of the international trade union movement has concluded in its Presidential Council Session held in Rome, Italy on February 14-15th to organize the following prominent activities during the year 2014.



INTERNATIONAL ACTION DAY 2014

On October 3rd, 2014 the WFTU calls the trade unions in all countries to organize activities, strikes, demonstrations, rallies confronting the crucial problem of UNEMPLOYMENT and demanding rights for the unemployed.

Unemployment is an issue that can unite workers all over the world, in order to organize under the banners, the slogans and the principles of the WFTU various militant activities with the aim to mobilize the unemployed workers, to include these workers in the trade unions and promote the constant focus of the unions to work with the unemployed. The mobilizations and activities will demand steady and stable jobs for all, the elimination of the causes that generate the unemployment. They will also aim to find ways to fight for the survival of the unemployed.

CELEBRATION OF THE WFTU'S 70th ANNIVERSARY

The celebratory activities for the 70th anniversary since the foundations of the WFTU should start in October 2014 and last until October 2015.

The aim of this effort is to educate the workers and mainly the younger generations about the need for trade union action, the value of class struggle, the constant effort for strong, militant, internationalist trade unions; unions that will be schools of class struggle for the younger generations.

Various publications, celebratory events and other activities will be prepared for the period 2014-2015. The central global event, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the WFTU will be an International Trade Union Symposium that will be held in Brazil, hosted by the CTB Brazil.

WORKING WOMEN CONGRESS

WFTU Working Women World Congress is expected to be held during the 2nd half of 2014. It will be a global event where working women trade unionists from all affiliates and friends of the WFTU will be invited to discuss and conclude on the platform of the WFTU concerning the modern role of the working women's movement.

TRADE UNION TRAINING COURSES

The contemporary needs of the international class oriented trade union movement demand trade union cadres who are well informed and educated. According to the demands of the WFTU affiliates all over the world, Trade Union Training Courses will be organized in every region and sector and in the Central Offices of the WFTU.

NEW WFTU WEBSITE

The website of the WFTU is going through radical transformation, in order to serve the need for coordination of the international class oriented trade union movement and the needs of the working people all over the world for information. The new website will be able to support WFTU web tv and radio.

ARAB TRADE UNION MEETING

The Presidential Council Session decided to organize an Arab Trade Union Meeting hosted in the European Region for all the members and friends of the WFTU from the Arab World.

CAMPAIGN FOR THE CHILDREN

In cooperation with the Education TUI (FISE) an International Campaign for the children in Palestine, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and other African countries, gathering notebooks, pens, pencils will be organized.



Organize and Fight!

"Collectively we move forward for the workers interests"

Reporting on behalf of the Secretariat for the developments in the workers situation the WFTU General Secretary George Mavrikos said: "In all capitalist countries, in all continents, the capitalists, the monopolies took advantage of the financial crisis in order to accelerate the anti-workers measures they had elaborated long before the crisis with the aim to extort bigger surplus value. They take advantage of the mass unemployment, so they can impose state and employer sponsored terrorism, oppression and increase the exploitation rate for the youth, especially the children of the working class and the popular strata."

Further he noted: "Capitalism at its present stage becomes increasingly dangerous, condemning millions of workers to unemployment, poverty, in persistent, permanent, relative and absolute misery, in armed conflicts, the same in the "developed" and "developing" economies. This system is unable to meet even the most basic needs of the people. Competition between 'traditional' dominant and 'emerging' imperialist forces is shaping developments on economic, political and military level."

About the WFTU activities he spoke about: "The action of the WFTU and the dynamic of the WFTU in 2013 followed the rise of the previous years and it was in general correctly oriented towards

the current issues concerning the workers and their families" and further noted that: "The rich action of the WFTU on central, regional and sectoral levels has aimed to unite the forces of the working class in class struggles; to unite the workers no matter their ideology, religion, language, gender; unite the simple people in the struggle against capitalist exploitation and against imperialism.

Through this effort the unity within the WFTU is also strengthened. It's a basic duty of all the Presidential Council members to strive daily for the strengthening of the unity within the WFTU. United and with class orientation we will go forward."

Finally he concluded that: "All activities, all initiatives organized by the Regional Offices or the TUIs affiliated to the WFTU must have the same goals, strengthen the class perspective, the militant spirit in every country and sector; Open the way for the strengthening of the Trade Union organizations with the affiliation of new members and the improvement of their functioning, the reconstruction of the trade union movement; Consolidate an alliance among the working class, the poor farmers, the peasants, the self employed, demanding a just society without exploitation of man by man."

Solidarity Resolutions



The Presidential Council discussed, recommended and concluded to resolutions of solidarity with the people of:

- Syria,
- Central African Republic,
- Venezuela,
- DPRK,
- Colombia,
- Western Sahara,
- in support with the struggle of NUBE Malaysia,
- against the Chevron policy in Ecuador,
- for the release of all Cuban 5 and
- the 10 cadres of USB Italy who are imprisoned unlawfully.



The Presidential Council approved the main Documents presented by the Secretariat, namely the Report of Action for 2013, the Action Plan for 2015 and the 56 new affiliation requests that were registered until the launch of the Presidential Council Session.

WFTU MAKING STEPS FORWARD IN EUROPE

Holding the Presidential Council Session in the European Region was by itself an important breakthrough for the WFTU. Commenting about this, the General Secretary said in his introductory speech: "The WFTU needs to strengthen its presence on a European level, gaining new affiliates, strengthening its relations and common action with friendly organizations, setting as an objective

the reconstruction of militant trade union movement in Europe. The fact that we're holding this meeting of the Presidential Council in a European country, with the hospitality of USB Italy, a new, but dynamic, class oriented and very active Confederation of the Italian working class and a WFTU affiliate, gives us optimism."

2013 in numbers

Some central points of the WFTU Report for the activities of the year 2013 can be reflected in the following numbers:

The WFTU International Action Day October 3rd. Militant activities took place in 43 countries.

In 2013, 47 trade union organizations, national or sectoral, send their affiliation requests to the WFTU, asking to become WFTU affiliates.

5 Regional Meetings of the Regional Offices were held.

Two new subregional offices were established. One in Gabon and one in Malaysia.

We welcomed and hosted in Athens 42 delegations.

The WFTU was represented in congresses, conferences and meeting held in over 90 countries.

We had an active presence before International Organizations.

We organized 31 thematic International Conferences.

We organized campaigns of solidarity and internationalism: for Cuba, Palestine, Syria, Mali, Venezuela, Colombia and dozens of other peoples and movements.

We organized seminars and training programs in over 28 countries.

We had active participation in international meetings with ACFTU-ICATU-OATUU.



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