

Minutes of the ETUC Executive Committee meeting of 22 and 23 June 2022

Participants for FERPA: Agostino SICILIANO, Secretary General of FERPA; Henri LOURDELLE, Special Advisor to FERPA and who took the notes; Jessica MONTIEL, Project Coordinator and P.A. of the SG

The President of the ETUC, Laurent BERGER, opened the meeting by welcoming the members and saying how much he enjoyed seeing everyone in person. As no other business was added, he proceeded with the adoption of the agenda: unanimously. Similarly, the minutes of the last statutory meetings - the Extraordinary Executive Committee of 1 March 2022, the Executive Committee of 16 and 17 March 2022, and the Steering Committees of 16 March and 3 May 2022 - were approved unanimously. He then gave the floor to the General Secretary of the ETUC, Luca VISENTINI, for his Communications.

The General Secretary first of all pointed out the two representatives of the Ukrainian and Moldavian trade unions who were present in the room and who would speak later. He began by asking the question: what more can we do for the Ukrainian people and workers? The ETUC continued to put pressure on the European institutions to put an end to the war, but this had not been successful. The war has even got worse. Regarding the process of Ukraine and Moldova as candidates for membership, the Commission did not want to grant the same status to Georgia, which the ETUC deeply regrets. The European Council of 23 and 24 June will decide on this issue. In Ukraine, the situation with regard to workers' rights, social dialogue, etc. was very bad before the war. The EU gave a lot of money for the war but nothing for the displaced people, and no public money from the government for the trade unions. The ETUC will meet this afternoon with Commissioner SCHMITT. The European Parliament had adopted a more progressive position but the Conservatives and Greens were not moving in the right direction. He thanked organisations for providing humanitarian aid and money, and neighbouring trade unions for receiving refugees. The leader of the Belarusian trade unions had been arrested. Finally, he informed the meeting that the Ukrainian and Moldovan trade unions had applied for membership of the ETUC. The General Secretary indicated that at the same time, the ETUC continued to act on the most urgent issues, in particular the violation of human and trade union rights in many countries or the fight against the Extreme Right. The sanctions against Russia, which the ETUC supported, have a huge impact on all of us, on all workers. Are we heading for a food crisis? A recession? Inflation has gone up again, there is a huge risk. Such a situation is not only the result of the pandemic, but also of the war. This means that we need to rethink our strategy, particularly at European level. But there are also local emergencies: buying food, paying rent. We must therefore strengthen social protection, in particular by implementing the European Social Rights Framework. Governments must invest in the social sector, which will have consequences for budgets and deficits. But unfortunately, there is not enough awareness of this urgency among governments and countries. What support measures can the European Union put in place as it did during the COVID period? In addition, the climate emergency must be addressed.

Before opening the debate, the President gave the floor to the representative of the Ukrainian trade unions. The trade unionist first of all renewed his appeal to the European Council, which was about to meet, to obtain for his country the status of candidate for membership of the European Union, so that the same values, the same standards that Ukraine shared, would be respected. Being a candidate for membership means fighting for human rights and workers' rights to be respected. There are 45 trade union organisations in Ukraine that are questioning their trade union functioning during the war? All of us together to be united against Russian aggression. Prices have risen by 20%, thousands of Ukrainians have fled their country, and they are forced to use Russian. It is difficult to speak of dignity. He also expressed his gratitude to the ETUC and its organisations for the aid given to Ukrainian trade unions and refugees.

The Moldovan trade union representative followed him to the podium, saying in particular that "the future of the Moldovan trade union lies in your hands" and specifying that his trade union was already part of the EPSU. His union shares the same values as Ukraine and they are facing the same war. The Ukrainian refugees use their house for treatment and rest. He ended his brief intervention by thanking the ETUC for the help provided, including financial support.

These speeches were greeted by a standing ovation and concluded by a "photo action", at the foot of the podium, of all the members of the Executive Committee surrounding the two trade union representatives, Ukrainian and Moldavian.

The President then opened the debate.

First of all, the interventions concerned the war in Ukraine and its consequences in that country. They reaffirmed their support for Ukrainian workers and for the ETUC's action in this area. Support was also added for the Russian workers in Russia who were demonstrating against Putin. It was also pointed out that it is the workers who are paying the highest price for this war, which is having a huge impact on European workers. To date, 14 million people have been displaced. The right of Ukraine to autonomy and self-defence must be reaffirmed. It is necessary both to position ourselves in relation to the peace movements and to have a dialogue on peace, and it is important that we have a debate on peace. It will be necessary to ensure that Europe is united but strong with regard to the reconstruction of Ukraine. They added that rearmament cannot be an answer to the challenge of peace. The ETUC must be at the forefront in defending a Europe of peace and European trade unions must call for a ceasefire. Others drew members' attention to the fact that we are moving towards a war economy and expressed concern that member states are committing themselves to increased arms spending. It was also said that the issue of European defence should be looked at from a trade union perspective. Several reaffirmed their full support for Ukrainian and Moldovan trade union membership of the ETUC and for their countries' membership of the European Union. Returning to the European and national challenges facing the organisations and workers, several speakers noted that the tension on the labour market - as in the transport sector, for example - was also explosive, particularly because of the shortage of quality jobs, as there was a lack of manpower to make the necessary investments. This question of investment comes up again and again. We need to invest massively, especially in the face of the multiple crisis we are experiencing, especially the crisis of wage policies in the light of the shock of rising prices, challenges that cannot be met solely with an increase in wages, even if we have to fight for a strong increase in wages.

Indeed, the concerns of defending purchasing power and wages are therefore a priority. This is why collective bargaining must be relaunched, or even renewed, particularly in the fight against precariousness, which affects all strata of the population, including pensioners. In this fight to improve wages, we must specifically mention women, who are often the most affected, but also the most forgotten. They need a bigger pay rise, especially because they are already lagging behind, but also because of the jobs they mostly do. Women are more affected by the crisis than men. We can see that companies have never made so much profit, while at the same time there is no fallout, no negotiations on wages. This raises the question of redistribution and the excessive remuneration of capital in the increase of wealth. It would be appropriate to have a discussion on taxation, even if it is difficult, and in particular on the new incomes that do not contribute, but also for a redistribution of public funds for public services, which have shown how much we needed them to get through the pandemic. In order to ensure that in Europe it is not again the workers who pay, we must move from a society of inflation to a society of redistribution. Several speakers referred to the energy crisis. The organisations pointed out that the increase in energy prices had had an impact on employment: many workers had lost their jobs as a result. However, it was also pointed out that the increase in energy prices was not only the result of the war, but also the result of negotiations with the multinationals, which were given free rein when energy was privatised. Similarly, many pointed out that inflation was not the sole result of the war, but was already there. Finally, the organisations support the ETUC's "roadmap" in its fight against the Extreme Right and its rise and "trivialisation" in the European Union and in the world. We need to be aware of this in order to be able to fight appropriately. Finally, the TUC, which was the 3rd largest contributor to the ETUC, explained that it had decided to halve its contribution because the UK had left the EU. But it would do so gradually over 4 years. The Secretary General of FERPA intervened extensively in the debate. He first recalled FERPA's solidarity with the Ukrainian people, who are suffering from a war that is claiming so many victims among the civilian population. That is why he was shocked by the images of war he saw in the media. How can we talk about peace in this context with a Russian government that manipulates the truth and keeps bombing? He was very happy to see fellow trade unionists from Ukraine and Moldova in the room. The last time we saw them was online and while the Russians were hitting Kiev. With Covid and the war, things would never be the same again. He recalled that in this context our Manifesto had taken on greater importance and had been sent to all members of the Executive Committee and recalled the joint letter that had been written at the time with EPSU. Home ownership is essential for older people, it is a fundamental issue in Europe. But there are older people in Ukraine who have had their homes destroyed by war, will they have the time and financial resources to rebuild them? In our manifesto, we have already denounced the energy poverty affecting the elderly. It is worth noting that this was the case before the war; today the situation has worsened. He took the opportunity to greet the members of the Turkish trade union DISK and informed the ETUC Executive Committee of the joint letter sent to DISK members with the ETUC condemning the closure of the pensioners' union Emekli-Sen. He concluded by stressing that the action plan on the European pillar of social rights decided in Lisbon must be implemented and that all the economic means of the EU must be mobilised to this end. He concluded by saying that FERPA puts all its experience at the disposal of the ETUC.

In his response, the ETUC General Secretary said that he had identified three main themes in the debate. First of all, solidarity with the Ukrainians and the maintenance of ongoing actions. But what can be done to make peace a reality? Peace goes hand in hand with democracy. We must continue to protect European workers from the effects of war. A working group (to be discussed later in the meeting) will be set up. As had been said, inflation existed before the war and rising energy and food prices could not be fought with wage increases alone. We need to restructure the economy to make it more sustainable and review taxation systems to make them fairer to support social protection. We must ensure that each state has the resources to invest in social protection. It was said that we must mobilise at European level. The ETUC Summer School on 30 June would be the ideal opportunity to reflect on this: to think about our demands but also about the methods of action. Concerning the membership of Ukrainian and Moldovan trade unions in the ETUC, there was a general consensus. However, the ETUC is concerned about the Commission's exclusion of Georgia from candidate status for EU membership. The ETUC will meet them. Concerning the new ETUC building, it was discussed at length in the Steering Committee which preceded the Executive Committee in the morning. Concerning the TUC, if the statutes were not applied to the letter, this would create major disruption in the finances of the ETUC.

The next item discussed was finances, specifically the request from CESO and TCO to change their membership declarations. This is because teachers who were previously members of CESO have moved to TCO. The Committee accepted this change.

The preparation of the 15th ETUC Statutory Congress, which will take place from 23 May to 26 May 2023 in Berlin, was then discussed.

First of all, it was necessary to adopt :

- a) the Rules of Procedure of the Congress
- b) the Good Governance Campaign Protocol - President's proposal
- c) Call for nominations for the Constitutional Committee
- d) Call for nominations for the Finance Committee

All of these items were adopted, with the following clarifications made in the debate.

In particular, it was agreed that all voting would be done electronically and that there would no longer be any show of hands. With regard to the constitutional changes, and in particular the modification of the representation of young people in the delegations of the organisations at the Congress, which had been practically approved at the ETUC's mid-term General Assembly, it was specified that it could only be effective for the Congress following the Berlin Congress, i.e. once the modification of the statutes had been adopted. But this does not prevent it from being a strong "recommendation" for the time being. It should be noted that only those amendments are presented to the Congress which have received at least 50% of the votes or more at the Midterm GA. Those that receive less are rejected. This is the case for FERPA's voting rights, which received only 45.75% of positive votes. Finally, the ETUC Finance Committee was re-established. As for the participation in the different Committees, all member organisations can be part of it.

The President then gave the floor to Ludovic VOET, Confederal Secretary, to introduce the next debate, which concerned a draft resolution on the European Commission's proposal for a directive on the improvement of working conditions via a work platform and the way

forward under the ordinary legislative procedure. Behind this rather long title lies a major issue: tracking down bogus self-employed workers on platforms and granting them the status of employees. A first report was presented to the European Parliament on 19 May which takes up several of the ETUC's proposals, notably on improving working conditions in the context of platforms and above all on the general presumption of employment: the criteria are no longer presented as a prerequisite to trigger the presumption of employment. However, several members of the EPP, Renew Europe and the RCE have drawn up a number of coordinated proposals aimed at hindering the progress proposed in the report by MEP Ms Gualmini (Socialists and Democrats) on labour rights, or even making the European Commission's proposal worse. The ETUC will continue to develop initiatives aimed at isolating and denouncing platform lobbying. It will try, together with its members, to convince Renew Europe and EPP MEPs of the coherence and legal feasibility of its proposals to ensure the sustainable development of work platforms in a workers' rights-based approach.

After debate, this draft Resolution was adopted, minus one abstention and one vote against (FNV).

The floor was then given to Esther LYNCH, Deputy Secretary General to introduce the Report on the Adequate Minimum Wages Directive and follow-up initiatives in the light of the final provisions on collective bargaining and minimum wages.

On 7 June 2022, a provisional agreement was reached on the directive on adequate minimum wages in the EU. This draft directive will now have to be adopted by the European Parliament and finally by the Council. This is an important step for social Europe and the first major test for the European Social Rights Framework. It creates an obligation in European law to respect the right to collective bargaining, to provide protection for workers who wish to bargain collectively and to prevent trade union busting practices. Although no Member State is obliged to set a mandatory 'legal' minimum wage, this draft directive advances several key ETUC demands such as

- to ensure that legal minimum wages are sufficient for the worker and his or her family and, in particular, to guarantee a decency threshold of 60% of the median wage and 50% of the average wage.
- Or that all categories of workers, in the private and public sectors, must be protected
- Or, to ensure adequate wages by promoting collectively bargained wages: Member States should put in place systems and laws that support trade unions, the right to collective bargaining and the right to organise.
- Or a non-regression clause that the directive "shall not be interpreted as preventing Member States from increasing statutory minimum wages. Similarly, the control mechanisms have been modified to prevent the directive from being misused for negative economic governance purposes.

The ETUC believes that organisations should seek to make immediate and accelerated progress during the two-year transposition process.

In the debate that followed this presentation, among other interventions, the Danish trade unions expressed their agreement with their government, which said no to this directive in order to preserve their social model.

They remained concerned despite everything. But they added that they had learned to disagree. Ireland points out that this Directive is not being implemented in Northern Ireland and asks what needs to be done to ensure that this Directive achieves all our objectives. The union also stressed that despite our disagreements we have managed to work together. The DGB said that in Germany we had overcome our fears of a downward revision, because we had to protect all workers. The Women's Committee also intervened, saying that the best is the enemy of the good and that they were satisfied with the proposed action plan. Esther concluded that

- on the one hand, minimum wages should not become the norm but remain a safety net
- on the other hand, that this directive is a good compromise, very respectful of the strong bargaining systems that exist.

The next item discussed was also presented by Esther LYNCH, Deputy General Secretary, and concerned the ETUC's draft mandate for the social dialogue negotiations on a binding agreement on telework and the right to disconnect and the composition of the delegation. The social dialogue work programme 2022-2024 commits the European social partners to review and update the 2002 autonomous agreement on telework and to propose it as a legally binding agreement to be implemented via a directive. The COVID 19 pandemic has accelerated the adoption of telework in many workplaces. Existing telework laws, in many cases based on the 2002 European agreement, are now being updated to take account of new technologies and working practices. It should be noted that for the first time in the history of the social dialogue, the social partners have agreed to revise an autonomous agreement and propose it for adoption as a directive. The agreement will aim to address a number of areas, including

- maintaining that the choice of telework is in the hands of the worker, including that mobile/flexible work is explicitly not intended to replace the workplace
- guaranteeing equal pay and treatment for teleworkers
- ensuring the obligation of employers to provide equipment, necessary technical assistance and payment of expenses/costs
- protection of privacy and prevention of invasive surveillance
- work-life balance, including the right to disconnect and the protection of working time rules. Telework will be fully subject to the provisions of the Working Time Directive
- address the gender dimension of telework...

Timetable :

- 22 June Executive Committee meeting: presentation of the draft mandate and composition of the delegation, 40 members (27 from the national confederations, including a maximum of 1 per country; 4 from the national federations, after agreement between them; 1 from the Women's Committee; 1 from the Youth Committee; 2 from the EUROCADRES/CEC Liaison Committee; 5 from the Secretariat).

In the short debate that followed, there was general agreement on the proposal as a whole. The Women's Committee stressed, however, that the pandemic had highlighted all the negative aspects of telework for women, in particular violence, work-life balance, but also what career opportunities there were for women.

The draft mandate and the composition of the delegation were adopted unanimously.

Esther LYNCH, Deputy General Secretary, also presented the next item, which concerned a draft resolution on ETUC policy on the fight against the extreme right in the European Parliament.

On 3 and 4 June 2021, the ETUC Executive Committee adopted the "ETUC Roadmap - Developing the trade union response to the rise of the far right". In particular, one action in the roadmap focuses on "fighting the far right in the European Parliament" and includes a commitment to "formulate the current practice on limiting contacts with the far right in the European Parliament into a policy" for the ETUC, which its national and sectoral affiliates are invited to implement. The presence of far-right parties and movements in the European Parliament has increased considerably over time. Today, more than one in five MEPs belong to far-right parties/movements and/or political groups comprising far-right parties/movements. The Identity and Democracy (ID) group currently has 65 MEPs. The European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) currently has 64 MEPs. They are the fifth and sixth largest political groups in the European Parliament. In addition, several MEPs among the non-attached members come from extreme right-wing parties and movements. This is why the ETUC, in accordance with its founding principles and values

- reaffirms its commitment to counter the far right at European level and in the European Parliament

- commits itself to challenge far-right messages and to avoid any action that could promote MEPs, far-right parties and movements.

- undertakes not to have relations/contacts with MEPs, far-right parties and movements and not to invite them to participate in trade union initiatives

- undertakes to counter the far-right's narrative and its attempt to divide workers, in particular by publicising their actions against the interests of workers and trade unions

- the ETUC engages with civil society organisations and European human rights organisations, for example the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) or the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)...

The proposed action plan is to implement these different commitments and a Manifesto is planned for the ETUC Congress in 2023.

During the ensuing debate, all the organisations said that they were fully in agreement with the document, insisting that the door should not be left open to those who wanted to suppress the trade union movement. Some would like to see stricter rules introduced into the statutes. Only Solidarnosc felt that the approach taken in the document was not the right one. However, the document was adopted, minus Solidarnosc's vote against.

The Executive Committee was then invited to discuss the ETUC's draft position on the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe and its follow-up, including a Convention. This item was introduced by Luca VISENTINI, General Secretary of the ETUC.

The General Secretary began by thanking the ETUC delegates to the Conference. Thanks to this work, the ETUC had succeeded in getting its demands into the conclusions, which had either been accepted or reflected. Not everything was passed, but the most important ones were, such as, for example, the demand for a social progress protocol or the full role of the European Social Rights Base in future Treaty changes or qualified majority voting. There were very strong attacks from the far right on the points that dealt with immigration and social rights.

Despite this, the ETUC's overall assessment of the Conference was positive. Now it remains to be seen what the three institutions will do with it. The Commission, for its part, wishes to bury the conclusions. The Parliament, for its part, is in favour of a Convention to revise the Treaties, but makes no reference to social progress. As for the Council, "the engine has imploded" following the French elections. The ETUC's assessment of the Commission and the Council is very negative. Will this be another missed opportunity? We must therefore be very vigilant.

In the debate that is about to begin, the interventions are in line with the analysis of the ETUC General Secretary and his generally positive assessment. But of course, everything will depend on the implementation of the conclusions. The first step is therefore to maintain the pressure on the Member States and the Institutions. There were a few reservations, first of all from the Nordic trade unions, who felt that it was too early to talk about changes to the European treaties. But also Solidarnosc expressed its disagreement to open the Treaties so widely, to enlarge them to other subjects such as taxation. For his part, the Secretary General of FERPA also intervened in the debate. He thanked the whole team that had worked to achieve this result. He recalled that FERPA, in the person of its President, had participated in the ETUC Working Group to achieve this Europe that we are calling for. The difficulty now is to know how to move forward, because no one expected such results, which have highlighted what we have been hoping for for a long time: a vision of a more united, more social Europe. All countries are different, but we want a Europe that brings people together. So we must not let these results be forgotten.

In his response, the ETUC General Secretary recalls that a balance must be found between social and economic rights. Why a Convention? Because, the General Secretary explained, in the framework of the current Treaties, if we want to change things, there is only the Intergovernmental Conference, but that will only apply "cosmetic changes". But if there is a Convention, we will have to fight to ensure that the social partners have a place in it. Yes, in its demands, the ETUC calls, among other things, for the introduction of a minimum tax on companies to combat social dumping. It also calls for a strengthened role for the European Social Rights Framework, linking the realisation of its principles to the Treaty's objective of a "social market economy" aiming at full employment and social progress "in order to rebalance the instruments of economic governance. What is being proposed, says Luca, is not an agreement by the ETUC on the Conference, but that if there are to be any changes, it should be in the framework of a Convention with the participation of the social partners on our demands. We must fight to ensure that our demands are heard.

In the end, the text was adopted, minus 7 abstentions (mainly the Nordic countries) and one vote against, Solidarnosc.

The next discussion point was introduced by Isabelle SCHÖMANN, Confederal Secretary, and was a draft position paper entitled: Positioning the ETUC for open strategic autonomy from the EU with a strong social agenda.

This text is in line with the ETUC resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee. What we are seeing today are increasing attacks on workers' rights and trade union rights. What is the European Union's open strategic autonomy? It is the combination of different approaches: (re)industrialisation and relocation of strategic activities, better control of key supplies, diversification of supply sources, storage, circular economy, energy and resource

efficiency, increased independence in the development and control of strategic technologies as well as the strengthening of know-how and innovation capacities. The ETUC therefore calls for this open strategic autonomy of the Union to be articulated around several social priorities, such as aiming to create sustainable and quality jobs in the EU or including a strong focus on education, training, re-skilling and upgrading of the European workforce or the creation of sustainable supply chains and building on regulations against social dumping or providing for an important role for public services and ensuring the quality of public infrastructure...

In the following short debate, the Polish trade union OPZZ calls for a more realistic transition to renewable energy. And, as far as coal is concerned, decarbonisation cannot be done so quickly.

Isabelle replied that we have to deal with two crises that add up and require changes but which, of course, we must be able to deal with.

Finally, the text was adopted minus 7 abstentions (the Nordic unions, OPZZ and Solidarnosc).

Ludovic VOET, Confederal Secretary, introduced the draft resolution, entitled: ETUC proposals in the light of the energy price crisis.

The current energy price crisis, exacerbated by the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine, is having a major impact on consumers and workers. Soaring energy prices have increased energy poverty. The EU must rapidly and radically reduce its dependence on Russian fossil fuel imports, while striving to meet the EU Green Deal target. This means diversifying the EU's energy supplies in the long term. At the same time, policy makers need to accelerate and intensify policy measures to support the most affected consumers, workers and businesses. Finally, the current crisis should also act as a wake-up call for policy makers to question and revise the current functioning of the EU energy market. But care must be taken not to move from energy dependence with one country to another with autocratic countries like Qatar. All the principles are on the table for the Commission with, among others, its Communication of 8 March entitled REPowerEU, but the social dimension is absent. Our response must be up to the task of saving the jobs of thousands of people and the purchasing power of workers. We must denounce the enormous profits made by energy companies, cap prices and review the European energy market.

In the debate that followed, many insisted that we must rely on the decarbonised energies available to us. We need to ensure a more coherent tax system and therefore review it and consider energy as a basic necessity. We also need incentives to save energy. Others questioned whether coal could remain a transitional fuel. Others add that a more managed energy market is needed to limit company profits. Is public ownership of energy not the sustainable solution? The Secretary General of FERPA intervened to say that policies must be developed to combat poverty in Europe. Older women on low incomes suffer the most. He said that the problems linked to energy poverty are well documented.

Ludo replies that coal is not the solution. Just because gas is a dirty energy does not mean that coal is a clean energy. We need to invest in renewable energy.

The text was adopted, minus three votes against and abstentions from the Nordic countries and the OPZZ.

The last debate on the agenda was introduced by Liina CARR, Confederal Secretary, and concerned a draft Resolution: Action plan for the European Social Rights Base, the future of social protection.

The Resolution summarises and confirms the main messages of the ETUC delivered during the specific hearings of the social partners on welfare and social protection policy, organised by the European Commission. The topics ranged from the future of the welfare state in the EU to the initiatives to be undertaken in the provision of essential services. The ETUC believes that a comprehensive approach to social assistance reforms requires further efforts to achieve the objectives of the European Socle of Social Rights, in particular the Council Recommendation on access to social protection and the main objectives of its Action Plan, notably the one on poverty, through substantial political and financial coordination, including intermediate and national targets. All the rights contained in the principles of the European Foundation must be pursued in an integrated and coherent way, as they are mutually reinforcing. Rights and needs based assessment needs to be further developed through better indicators, capable of reflecting the composite realities of social protection demands. These indicators must also be able to develop the effectiveness of any measures undertaken and the response of policy drivers to the EDS. Public authorities must play a greater role in responding to the needs of people in vulnerable situations and in providing high quality services to communities. Social partners need to be involved at all stages to facilitate multi-faceted and better targeted solutions. Finally, the social and economic dimensions must be given equal attention. Therefore, achieving the objectives of the SEDS and the Action Plan requires a coherent financial commitment at all levels, starting with the EU.

In the debate that followed this presentation, the interventions emphasised that health cannot be made a business. Health is an essential right, with quality care, and therefore it is not a commodity. This implies that staff are qualified with fair wages and that there is more political commitment to ensure that these services are protected and defended. It is essential, it was also added, to continue on the SEDS. It is important to ensure that commitments do not remain 'dead letters'.

In her reply, Liina said that the Commission would organise a hearing of the social partners to prepare a report on this subject.

The text was adopted, minus one abstention (FH).

The ETUC President closed the Executive Committee on this point and invited its member organisations to participate in the ETUI GA.

Henri