

## **Danilo Toccane at the FERPA congress**

### **Finance Commission**

### **Vienna, 04 to 06/2023**

Dear delegates and guests,

the congress marks an important and democratic milestone. It is an opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved in the period from October 2018 to today, but it must also be an opportunity to establish the direction, the goals and the tasks for the coming years. For me personally, it represents the end of my term as president of the Finance Commission and the discontinuation of the commission itself. The operation and work of the commission was fruitful and collaborative with the FERPA organisation, which always provided valuable help, and for this I would like to thank them.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the SPI [Italian Pensioners' Trade Union], which allowed me to carry out this role, and to the other members of the commission for their trust.

Our audit and control work took place in a very complicated period as a result of the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was experienced by us all in Europe and beyond. We did everything we could, bearing in mind that the practicality of the venues, transport restrictions, illnesses and contagions forced us into long periods of

inactivity. The use of computerised systems gave us new ways to verify and audit accounts.

The commission verified and expressed its positive opinion and called for an affirmative vote of the Executive Committee for the 2019 - 2020 - 2021 balance sheets, which was voted on.

The records are correct and clear and are filed in ETUC's administrative office; they are accompanied by the minutes, with a positive opinion by the external auditors acting on behalf of ETUC, including with regard to the FERPA accounts.

The next managers will be tasked with auditing the as yet unfinished accounts for the year 2022.

I am pleased to report that as of the date of this congress, all income from FERPA membership fees has been regularised.

As in the past, the commission reiterates the need for the adjustment of the fees to be paid to FERPA by the member federations, particularly in view of the increased costs for mobility and expenses in general.

The commission emphasises the need to take action to increase the number of trade union and voluntary federations joining FERPA in order to make it more representative and more robust for the benefit of millions of Europe's elderly people and pensioners.