

## RESOLUTION

The 9<sup>th</sup> Permanent Conference of the Trade Unions of the European Capital Regions was held in Paris in October 14,15 and 16, 2009 within the context of the financial, economic and social crisis, which is currently in progress throughout the world and which has had very serious consequences for both the employed and the unemployed. The crisis has particularly affected the population who were the subject of our conference: young people and immigrant workers, both of which are very present in our regions.

The Conference was devoted to two previously selected subject: **the employment of young people and immigration in capital regions.**

The debate showed a large consensus on the situations described in the summary reports. The strongest of the new points are outlined below.

### I) Decisions of the Conference

#### 1) Employment of young people

The precarious conditions in which young people live was mentioned by all and the fact that this affects all areas of their lives: employment, education, housing, etc. All these sectors are worsening due to the current crisis. All organizations noted that the situation of young people is even worse in capital regions than elsewhere in their countries. **The downturn in employment and resulting increase in unemployment are of course at the heart of this situation.**

**All organizations are trying to establish links with young people. The conference has thus put forward the idea that the capital regions of Europe could undertake convergent actions toward young people.**

#### 2) Immigration

The conference underlined the necessity to recognise the contribution immigration makes in economic, social and cultural domains. It underlined the need to guarantee the equality of both work rights and social rights. Regularizing workers who do not have papers is a critical element to providing this guarantee. Guaranteeing fundamental rights: employment, housing, health, education, culture.

The Conference also stressed the need to develop a common European policy on immigration and an integration policy too, for example by ensuring the right to vote.

It underlined the need to cooperate in order to help the countries of origin with their development. It underlined also the fact that trade unionsists must play a major role in fighting against racism, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination.

## **II) The future of the Conference**

Participants insisted that it is important to give new impetus to this conference and a new dimension. Several ideas were launched:

**The first** concerns the European Trade Union Confederation (CES): The CES spoke at the conference upon our invitation, and this was greatly appreciated by all. It provided an opportunity for us to again ask the CES to recognise our initiative, in the light of the specificity and the importance of our capital regions.

**Second:** The possibility of a meeting with the Assembly of European Regions (ARE). The president of ARE responded favorably to our invitation in response to a proposal for our conference to work together with ARE. Concretely speaking, ARE proposed both to meet with us and to invite us to their next meeting that will be held in Belfort. The Conference decided to respond favourably to the ARE's proposal.

**Third:** Many participants insisted on the need to be able to work together between two conferences, and thus the idea that joint initiatives could be undertaken towards young people, one of the conference's main topics. The conference will organise an initiative in 2010 directly involving young people and their associations.

**Fourth:** The will to hold the conference annually was clearly expressed and concrete proposals were made, notably to meet in Athens in 2010 and in 2011 in Copenhagen.