

11th Permanent Conference of the European Capitals Trade Unions

1st Session: Follow up from the Athens resolution on OHS

Sum up

Copenhagen, Sept. 2011

1. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) remains a challenging issue for the European Capitals' Trade Unions.
2. The situation in many European Capitals has deteriorated since last year.
3. Factors which have contributed to the aggravation of the situation, is the **deregulation** of the labor market and the **crisis**. Especially crisis is used as an alibi for employers to neglect OHS and for the governments to disregard their role to supervise the implementation of the relevant legislation.
4. Work accidents, professional diseases, stress (sometimes causing even suicides), exhausting commuting provoking health problems, flexibility, unlimited mixing up of the working and private life etc, are factors contributing to further deterioration of working and social conditions.
5. Liberal and neoliberal governments, governments of the right wing, generally disregard OHS, and because of this "acquis" of the past decades obtained with struggles are now at risk.
6. Workers in SME's -the back bone of the European economy- are most exposed to bad and continuously deteriorating working conditions.

Proposals

7. We have to intensify our cooperation in OHS area.
8. OHS has to be introduced in the collective bargaining, and we as Trade Unions of the European Capitals, we have to insist on it.
9. More information, education, training especially for young people even from the school age, in order for youngsters to get familiar with the culture of OHS, training for immigrants are necessary.
10. We have to ask ETUC to raise OHS high on the political agenda.
11. New technologies (e.g. nano-technologies) and their impact has to be searched, in cooperation with Universities.
12. Common initiatives between our organizations are necessary, such as: on the European week of Action on OHS, on the 28th of April 2012, "The International Workers Memorial Day", by choosing this year a specific group of workers e.g. at the Health sector. These common initiatives on the occasion of international or European events, have both an informative and a substantial character, by rendering sensitive all involved to the OHS matter.