



## ***CLOSING STATEMENT***

### **XIII PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF THE TRADE UNION ORGANISATION OF THE CAPITAL CITIES**

Rome - September 23 – 25, 2013

The XIII Conference of the Trade Unions of the European Capital Cities has taken place in Rome on September 23,24,25 2013.

53 delegates from 25 trade union organisations have participated in it. Delegates from neighbouring trade union organisations of capital cities like Kiev, Minsk and Tunis have also taken part as observers.

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The theme of the conference was “The contribution and role of the trade union organisations of the capital cities in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy”, as adopted by the context of the European funded project C.Re.a.T.E.S. The project partners are the trade union organisations of the capital cities that confirmed their participation, and in this framework a questionnaire was sent out to investigate the structure, level of knowledge, the approach and involvement of the trade union organisations of the capital cities in the EU 2020 Strategy.

The following actions have taken place in the context of the conference and of the above mentioned project:

- 1) contacts with the OPCE - after a first exchange during the Madrid Conference in 2008 - have been re-established in order to share knowledge and experience in the areas of the European capital cities in order to foster economic growth and quality jobs creation;
- 2) An acronym and logo have been created for the ECTUN - **European Capitals Trade Unions’ Network**;
- 3) a website for the C.Re.a.T.E.S. project - which will be the basis for the website of the ECTUN – has been created for the visibility and internal and external communication of the network.

The analysis of the questionnaires and the debate of the conference highlighted the following:



a) not all trade union organisations have a specific structure in the area of the capital cities. Taking into account the strategic role played by these areas and by the policies developed by the territorial trade unions, the ETUC should promote favourable conditions for the creation of trade union organisations active at such level by all its affiliates;

b) trade union organisations which are part of the ECTUN are encouraged to commit in taking concrete actions in the context of green economy and sustainable development.

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As for the EU 2020 Strategy, the analysis of the questionnaires reports that, notwithstanding the validity of the general targets, almost all territorial trade union organisations do not consider either appropriate or binding the instruments set by the EU to implement it, and agree with the position expressed on several occasions by the ETUC/CES. The research also highlighted an opposition to the austerity measures adopted by national and local institutions, which are considered responsible for the deterioration of the social and working conditions thus undermining the rights of the workers and citizens represented by our trade unions, and are equally responsible for the growth of inequality and for the concentration of wealth and in parallel with the increase of poverty.

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The territories of the capital cities have been strongly hit by an unprecedented financial and economic crisis with negative effects on workers, retirees and citizens and on unemployment rates, in particular affecting the disadvantaged persons (youth, women, migrants etc.) Austerity measures adopted also at the local level threaten labour rights, solidarity and social dialogue. The welfare model that has been emblematic of the European Union to date is also under threat.

For this reason, it is necessary to strengthen the cooperation among the trade union organisations in the capital cities in order to jointly oppose the effects of such policies and to improve the working and living conditions of our capital cities. This is also needed in order to strengthen the model of sustainable development, future economic and job-rich growth which we hope and strongly demand to be fair, equal and sustainable.

In 2014 the conference will take place in Vilnius. CGTP-Lisbon put forward a candidature to host the conference in 2015.