

**Present:**

Hugo Deckers, ACOD, Belgium  
Jens Vraa-Jensen, DM, Denmark  
Kari Sajavaara, FUUP, Finland  
Björn Fant, FUURT, Finland  
Olavi Arra OAJ, Finland  
Yves Baunay, SNES FSU, France  
Guy Lachenaud, UNSA Education, France  
Veronique Martin-Jezequel, SNCS FSU, France  
Gerd Köhler, GEW, Germany  
Gabor Szabo, FDSZ, Hungary  
Breandan O' Cochlain, IFUT, Ireland  
Gerard Sipkema, AOb, Netherlands  
Kari Kjenndalen, NARW, Norway  
Ryszard Mosakowski, Solidarnosc Science, Poland  
Manuel Pereira Dos Santos, FENPROF, Portugal  
Brian Everett, AUT, United Kingdom  
Paul Bennett, NATFHE, United Kingdom, President  
Vladimir Pavlikhin, ESEUR, Russia  
Nikolay Kolobashkin, ESEUR, Russia  
Jana Soskova, OPZaV, Slovakia  
Janez Stergar, ESWUS, Slovenia  
Pedro Gonzalez, FECCOO, Spain  
Teresa Munoz, FETE-UGT, Spain

Jörgen Lindholm, ETUCE  
Monique Fouilhoux, EIE

1. The report of the previous meeting was adopted. The English translation will be amended with the new comments.

2. **GEW Conference**

Gerd Köhler presented the guidelines for the Conference « **From Sorbonne to Prague via Bologna** » to be held by GEW just after the Committee meeting. This Conference will deal with the main issues currently discussed at European level within the framework of the creation of a European space for higher education. The issues of quality, evaluation, certification and commodification/merchandisation ? of education within the GATS framework will be on the agenda.

### **3. Continuation of the work on « Pay and Working Conditions of Academic Staff in Europe »**

Once again, the participants expressed their wish for EI to take up this initiative and extend it to the whole of Europe and the world. Such a database should then be revised periodically and would be a powerful working device for EI and its members. Contacts could be made with the Kassel investigators.

### **4. Follow-up of the Sorbonne and Bologna declarations and preparation of the Prague 2001 Conference**

The Prague Conference will be held on 18 and 19 May. It will be preceded by several preparatory conferences, among them the Salamanca Conference to which ETUCE and several other trade unions are invited. It was suggested that all participants to Salamanca should meet there and discuss how to organise their participation in the different workshops. The document "The teachers' voice in the Bologna/Sorbonne debate on the future of higher education and research in Europe" developed and adopted by the EIE Regional Committee in January, will be widely distributed and presented to participants.

After a wide exchange of views the participants agreed on various points and updated and developed the discussions of the Bled meeting (see Annex 1), which will be communicated to the next EIE Regional Committee Meeting.

## **4. ETUCE Activities**

Investigation :

Jörgen Lindholm, ETUCE General Secretary, provided information on the 6th Framework Programme on Research. He recalled the ETUCE claims. The Committee claims had been presented to Commissioner Busquin at the beginning of 2000. During this meeting with the Commissioner's collaborators, the following points were addressed : the necessity to render research more attractive, participation in the preparation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme and participation in the evaluation of the 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme. The participants stressed the importance of having contacts with the European Parliament on this question.

Quality :

In relation to quality the participants expressed once again their worries about the absence of higher education organisations during the different activities organised on this issue, more especially in the « 16 Indicators » Project developed by the European Union. Furthermore, the participants insisted on the need to develop, as far as possible, closer relationships with the European Network for Quality Assessment.

In this regard, the Committee asked that the following phrase be put on the record : « The Committee wishes higher education to be completely integrated in the work on the 16 indicators ».

Action Programme :

Concerning the Action Programme to be adopted in Luxembourg during the General Assembly, the participants expressed their wish that the preparatory documents be sent directly to them. The question of the lack of teachers was mentioned. A document will be presented to the Assembly in May. The participants indicated that this question had to be linked to the

question of teacher training. Paul Bennett suggested that the ETUCE document developed on teacher training be revised in the light of the anticipated shortage of students.

Furthermore, given the fact that 92% of the ETUCE affiliates are EIE members, the participants decided to identify several action areas to be presented to EIE and developed jointly with ETUCE. A document was developed and approved by all participants (see annex 2).

## **7. Next meeting**

To be held in October 2001.