



PAN-EUROPEAN STRUCTURE

HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH STANDING COMMITTEE

10th February 2005

The Standing Committee met in Brussels on 10th February 2005. The Committee observed one minute silence in memory of Peter Dawson who passed away in January. Peter had initiated a European Committee on Higher Education while holding the position of General Secretary of ETUCE in the decade of the 1980s.

The meeting was essentially dedicated to different aspects of the implementation of the Bologna Process.

- Concerning the national reports presented by Member States for January 2005 a very few affiliates have been involved or consulted.
- Representatives of national unions reported on activities and actions undertaken, especially advocating for recognition as responsible partners and consultative members in the follow-up structures. It appeared that member organizations are now better involved in the process of implementation. Nevertheless the situation varies widely from one country to another. In spite of this improvement there is still a lot of work to be done so that academic staff and their unions are considered as regular partners or consultative members.
- Finalisation of the preparation of the Pan-European Higher Education Conference. The Committee particularly examined in depth the draft Statement to be discussed and adopted by the Conference. Kari Kjenndalen from NARW presented also some of the results of the survey commissioned from the Norwegian Institute NIFU-STEP. The Committee warmly thanked NARW and the Nordic organizations whose financing enabled this study to be undertaken.

Concerning research matters, the Committee was informed that the draft Recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and a Code of Conduct for the recruitment of researchers will be launched around mid-March. Member organizations will be invited to disseminate and implement this Recommendation. An assessment of the implementation conducted through the Network, will be presented at the next Committee meeting in September.

Concerning the ETUCE Network on higher education, it was recommended to integrate as soon as possible those organizations that are not yet members and an appeal was launched to the actual members to update their participation in the network.

The next Committee meeting will be held from 26th to 28th September in Brussels, in the context of the new TRACE project conducted by ETUI-REHS/ETUCE.