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DN/CH

Ronnie Smith  
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# NASUWT

The Teachers' Union

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Dear Ronnie,

## **CONSULTATION ON REVISED EUROPEAN BY-LAWS**

The NASUWT welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Education International (EI)/ European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) consultation on revised by-laws for the Pan-European structure. The NASUWT is the largest teachers' union in the UK.

The NASUWT remains committed to working with colleagues in all organisations affiliated to the ETUCE and the European Region of EI (EIE) to ensure that arrangements for the management and governance of the Pan-European Structure are fit for purpose and allow it to focus on representing the interests of teachers and other education-sector workers throughout Europe. The NASUWT remains of the view that the current governance and management arrangements in place for the Pan-European Structure are inadequate in terms of the extent to which they support its ability to undertake its core functions, particularly in relation to the organisation of the work of the secretariats of both EIE and ETUCE and the resourcing of the increasing number of activities that fall within the remit of both organisations. Within the context of the global structure of EI, the Union continues to be concerned that the existence of a regional structure within Europe, comprised of two distinct organisations with common areas of legitimate concern

*The largest teachers' union in the UK*

and interest, is highly anomalous and does not reflect established arrangements in other EI regions.

For these reasons, the NASUWT was disappointed by the failure of the Pan-European Structure Conference, held in Warsaw in November 2009, to support the draft by-laws proposed by the NASUWT and other affiliates which, if they had been adopted, would have addressed these important concerns. However, the NASUWT is committed to ensuring that all efforts continue to be made to revise the management and governance arrangements for the Pan-European Structure in a way that acknowledges the concerns of those opposed to aspects of the reforms proposed in Warsaw but which also recognises the unsustainable nature of the current by-laws. In this regard, the NASUWT welcomes the commitment of the EIE/ETUCE Bureau and the Pan-European Committee/ETUCE Executive Board to continue to work towards effective reforms of the existing by-laws that secure the widest possible degree of support among affiliate unions and to achieve ratification of these reforms by the end of 2010.

In this context, the NASUWT welcomes the decision of the Bureau to circulate a revised set of draft by-laws and that of the Pan-European Committee/ETUCE Executive Board to endorse the draft for circulation as a basis for further reflection and discussion within and between affiliate unions. The NASUWT also recognises the significant amount of work undertaken by the Bureau in developing alternative proposals for reform of the by-laws. While the NASUWT is clear that the revised draft by-laws are less extensive in scope and ambition than those endorsed by the NASUWT at the Warsaw Conference, the Union is content that, regarded as a coherent and complete package, the revised draft by-laws represent a viable and robust means of delivering an effective management and governance framework for the Pan-European Structure in the longer term. In particular, the NASUWT is satisfied that arrangements set out in the draft in relation to staffing, the relationship between the ETUCE and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the management of the implications of membership or otherwise of the European Union of states within which affiliates organise meet the concerns articulated at the time by opponents of the proposals not adopted by the Warsaw Conference.

The NASUWT therefore looks forward to the specially convened Pan-European Committee/ETUCE Executive Board meeting on 14 and 15 June 2010 and to the draft by-laws being submitted unamended for ratification by an extra-ordinary Regional Conference in November 2010.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris', with a horizontal line underneath.

Chris Keates  
**General Secretary**