



FOR ADOPTION

34th Executive Board meeting, 1-3 December, 2009

URGENCY MOTION FOR EI EXECUTIVE BOARD

Brussels, 1 – 3 December 2009

TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN TURKEY

The EI Executive Board

- (i) is outraged that charges of belonging to an unlawful organisation were brought by the Public Prosecutor in Turkey against 31 officials of KESK and Egitim Sen who are threatened with sentences of 5 – 10 years imprisonment;
- (ii) believes that the accused (who include 27 teachers) were engaged at all relevant times in lawful trade union activity;
- (iii) agrees with the Defendant's assertions that they were prosecuted because of their commitment to secular, scientific and public education and the right of Turkish/Kurdish pupils to mother-tongue teaching;
- (iv) notes that Egitim Sen and KESK are under threat regularly because these organisations defend the rights of all workers and oppose the effects of the financial crisis;
- (v) is concerned that the Izmir Court hearing of the 19/20 November 2009 was badly organised, involved flawed process and did not meet with National and European legal requirements.

However, the EI Executive Board welcomes the decision of the Court to release all 22 of those charged and calls on the Turkish Authorities to cease using the judicial system against trade unions and trade union activists going about their legitimate business.

The EI Executive Board calls on the affiliates of Education International to make representations to the Turkish authorities demanding that they adhere to international Labour and Trade Union Standards in the future.

The EI Executive Board pledges to assist Egitim Sen in submitting complaints to the European Court of Human Rights and/or the international Labour Organisation.

Proposed by: Jerry Bartlett (NASUWT UK)
Seconded by: Ulrich Thöne (GEW, Germany)