



VERTICAL COORDINATION OF CROATIAN EDUCATION UNIONS

◆ Croatian Teachers' Union ◆ Independent Union of Workers in Secondary Education of Croatia ◆ Independent Union of Research and Higher Education Employees of Croatia

Dear Colleagues,

Three largest trade unions in Croatian education sector, Croatian Teachers' Union (CTU), Independent Trade Union of Workers in Secondary Education of Croatia (ITUWEC) and Independent Union of Research and Higher Education Employees of Croatia (IURHEEC) support the proposed integration of Pan-European structure into ETUCE. We believe that unions from future EU member states and from Croatia in particular, will benefit most from the integrated regional structure.

We would like to point your attention to a particular section of proposed by-laws, the nomination procedure of ETUCE Committee members. In our view, national representation in the ETUCE committee should be the most important tool of European cooperation among trade unions in the education sector. However, we feel that the current election procedure encourages European structures to cooperate with less relevant actors. After careful consideration, trying not to undermine the European consensus principle, and respecting member organizations right to choose their partners, we decided to propose the following amendment to by-laws:

“Replace 6.3.1. (b) by: *Candidates for election to country seats on the Committee must be nominated by a member organization from the country concerned. In order to receive candidate status, candidate must provide a written proof of support from member organizations representing at least 25% of total national votes. Letter of intent, alongside with letters of support must be submitted to the Bureau prior to the deadline after the election for Vice-Presidents has been conducted, which will be set by the Bureau during the Conference.*”

Explanation: We believe that this proposal may prevent a potentially absurd situation from happening. Current regulation, as well as proposed one contains a potentially great threat to all large unions. Nationally representative unions with a large majority of workers can be prevented from having a representative in the Committee only because a small union has decided to nominate a candidate without prior consultations or consent. Same as Croatian

representative, in example, is highly unlikely to be informed about union relations in Iceland; it is also highly unlikely for Conference voters to be informed about exact nature of union relations, in example, in Croatia.

Election of country representative that has no majority support can cause serious damage to nationally representative unions and to ETUCE subsequently. We believe that this amendment will reduce the danger of such absurd, and at the same time increase the decision making power and productivity of ETUCE Committee. However, if this amendment is unacceptable in any way, we kindly ask for following alternative to be suggested or proposed: **at the Conference national unions elect national Committee representative among themselves, according to the number of votes their country has in ETUCE Conference.**

Regards,



Zvonimir LAKTAŠIĆ, President
Croatian Teachers' Union, CTU

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Laktašić'.

Branimir MIHALINEC, President
Independent Trade Union of Workers in Secondary Education of Croatia, ITUWEC



Vilim RIBIĆ, President of Executive Board
Independent Union of Research and Higher Education Employees of Croatia, IURHEEC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mihalinec'.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ribić'.