

**From:** IFUT [ifut@eircom.net]  
**Sent:** mardi 8 septembre 2009 17:53  
**To:** President Pes  
**Cc:** rsmith@eis.org.uk; Paul Bennett; Daire Keogh  
**Subject:** Pan European Structure

Mr. Ronnie Smith,  
President

Dear Ronnie,

The Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT) wishes to express its strong support for the new Structure proposals and by-laws which were circulated by EI on behalf of the European Bureau.

It is IFUT's very strong belief (and this is heavily influenced by our position as a very small, specialist Union with very little financial resources) that it is no longer sustainable to maintain the duplication of function and confusion of role which are the hallmarks of the current arrangements.

IFUT has no doubt that if we were starting ab initio we would never dream of creating the current duality. Our greatest obstacle to date in moving from where we are to a more logical, more effective, more efficient and more streamlined structure has been our desire not to show any disrespect to all of those who, by years of hard and dedicated work, built up our current structures in different circumstances and because, in reality, in those times, there was no better way to proceed.

IFUT, like many other organisations, wished also to strive to keep all of the best aspects of the structures which have grown side by side.

It is our sincere belief that the proposals currently under consideration satisfy those two requirements. They are fair to, and respectful of, the rights and legitimate interests of all parties. There is no sense of either "victory" or "defeat" for any side. Rather it is a genuine, mutual coming together in the best interests of the members we all are pledged to serve.

The proposals also preserve all that is best in each of the combining structures.

We would worry that if these finely-tuned proposals, which have been the result of so much hard work and consultation, were to be rejected it could be another generation or more before we would ever get back to such proximity of agreement. Given the enormous challenges facing all of us in the years ahead we do not have the luxury of being able to afford such wasteful disunity.

Yours sincerely

Mike Jennings

General Secretary, IFUT, Ireland

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