

Education International
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Comments on new draft By-Laws for the European Regional Structure

Union of Education Norway wishes to express its support for the general principles underlying the proposal and the draft for new by-laws for an EI Regional Structure in Europe. Educational and Employment policy work in all European countries is strongly influenced by the political apparatus of the European Union. We value highly the position held and the important work effectuated by the ETUCE so far, and we wish to push forward the importance of keeping up this political work in the future. The new integrated ETUCE must strive to have a special focus and role on the educational processes of the European Union.

However, we are of the opinion that, despite the particularities of Europe, it is important to encourage and work towards a final integration and merge of the teacher's organisations to surpass the frontiers of the European Union. EUs policy work in the field of education is based on voluntary participation and is not confined to its member organisations. Actually, a lot of EU's involvement and work in education and training also include countries outside the Union, and even outside Europe. Examples are the mobility programme Erasmus Mundus and its cooperation with the OECD on, for instance, TALIS.

The principles of unity and solidarity are at the heart of Education International. The same principal rules of conduct and organisational lines of responsibility should apply to all regional organisations of EI representatives. If a regional organisation of EI is responsible to the EI Executive Board and Congress, while another is responsible to the member organisations in its region, then we have establish different structures within the structure of EI that are not compatible with EI's purpose. In doing this, we would possibly contribute to stronger diversification and justification

of putting special interests before general, common goals of the EI family. Ultimately, this could smooth the path for greater fragmentation and an undermining of EIs unity.

On the bases of these principles, we give our general support to the draft By-Laws of ETUCE.

Yours sincerely,
Union of Education Norway



Helga Hjetland
President



Per Aahlin
Vice-President