



The Educational
Institute of Scotland

Ronnie Smith
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Education International
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15 July 2009

Dear Ronnie

Comments on the European Regional Structure Consultation Document (14 May 2009)

As you know, the EIS has long supported the establishment of a unified and fully integrated organisation for Europe's teachers. We do so because we want a structure which is streamlined, simple, readily understood and which operates both efficiently and effectively. The current arrangements, although an improvement on the previous structures, are inadequate in the light of developments since they were adopted in 2003 and in view of the greater European integration we anticipate in the years ahead.

The EIS wishes to support a unified organisation which is also characterised by strong democratic and accountable governance arrangements. In that regard we support a clear demarcation between the elected bodies which are responsible for policy formation and direction and provide political leadership, as opposed to the salaried employees of the Secretariat who are charged with the execution and implementation of policy.

The EIS therefore supports the proposals in the paper which were put forward by the Bureau. We reject the alternative proposals set out in Annex A. These appear to retain the outmoded concept of an 'organisation within an organisation' with a secretariat placed outside the structures of EI. The introduction of an elected General Secretary for Europe would only cause a confusion of roles and mandates between the 'political' and 'executive' arms of the organisation.

The EIS hopes the forthcoming conference in Warsaw will bring about a sustainable constitutional settlement so there can be a proper focus on the challenges facing teachers' organisations in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely

Helen Connor
President

From: Jerry Bartlett [JERRYB@mail.nasuwat.org.uk]
Sent: lundi 14 septembre 2009 10:42
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Subject: RE: Response of NASUWT to the Draft By-Laws for the European Regional Structure of Education International

NASUWT (the largest trades union organising teachers and headteachers in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) will be voting at the European Conference in November 2009 for the adoption of the "Draft EI Regional Structure in Europe By-laws", as set out in the consultation document circulated by the President, because the provisions proposed therein:

1. succeed in establishing a single, unified, authoritative voice for teachers, school and college workforce unions and education throughout Europe capable of securing recognition by all interests within and outside the European Union and beyond;
2. promote inclusion, democracy and transparency in decision making and policy formation;
3. remedy current inefficiencies and wastage of resources through the establishment of a single European secretariat;
4. recognise the special and disparate needs of the EI European Region within an integrated EI world structure;

5. ensure the accountability of the European Region "General Secretary" to European affiliates under the line management of the EI General Secretary and governance of the EI World Executive Board;

6. are compatible with the EI World constitution and practice;

7. enable adherence to the fundamental trades union principle that "unity is strength".

In reaching the Union's decision to support the "Draft EI Regional Structure in Europe By- Laws, NASUWT has taken cognisance of:

1. assurances regarding the protection of the employment security of present EI European and ETUCE staff;

2. the amendment of the draft to include a number of changes proposed by Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft (GEW).

JERRY BARTLETT
DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY
NASUWT

14.09.09

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4F1

2 September 2009

Ronnie Smith
President
Education International
5bd du Roi Albert II
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BELGIUM

Dear Ronnie

The European Regional Structure Consultation Document

The SSTA is committed to the principle of a unified organisation representing European Teachers, broadly in line with the structure of the other EI regions world-wide, which provides demographic representation for all European Teachers, regardless of EU status.

We are anxious for the debate on structure which has absorbed so much time and energy, to be brought to a satisfactory conclusion, in a way that meets the expectations of the European Conference and that is consistent with the constitution and culture of Education International.

In particular we are deeply concerned that the on-going bitter dispute is harmful to all European teachers and to our position within the worldwide EI community.

We believe the proposals in the paper from the Bureau provide a clear and coherent structure which will allow our organisations to develop within EI worldwide and provide us with a solid foundation for the future. We will have a stronger structure and larger secretariat able to address our concerns without the discontinuities which exist now. We welcome assurance that EU matters will be dealt with, and voted on, by the unions from EU countries.

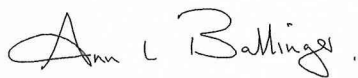
We are utterly opposed to the amendments outlined in Annex A, which will simply encourage the disunity and duplication which have tarnished the reputation of EI/ETUCE over the last few years. These amendments also have significant cost implications which are met by individual member of the affiliated organisation. This must be borne in mind and will certainly influence our decision to support the original proposal and reject the amendments.

We believe the retention of the 'ETUCE' name will continue to signal the unique character of European education while the integrated structure will provide a

clear and effective European voice in debate about world-wide issues, e.g. emanating from the Bologna Process or from the OECD.

We welcome the assurances that have been given regarding the employment protection of existing EI Europe and ETUCE staff. In particular we welcome the proposed election of a President, Vice President and Treasurer as the principal representative of ETUCE and the appointment of an ETUCE Regional Director appointed by the EI General Secretary in line with the EI Constitution. The structure will provide a solid basis for the good governance of EI Europe and ETUCE on properly constituted and democratic principles.

Yours sincerely



ANN BALLINGER
General Secretary

AB/MM

UCU RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE PAN EUROPEAN STRUCTURES AND BY LAWS OF EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL

The University and College Union, representing 120,000 academic and academic related staff in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, welcomes the proposed new structure and by laws set out in the consultation document circulated by the President of the Pan-European Structure by email on 12 June. We believe that the proposals accurately address the issues identified by the last EI European Region Conference, which began the process of developing the present proposals. There was clear recognition that the measures introduced at the previous European conference in 2003 were fundamentally flawed. In particular the proposals now address the clear impossibility of having a supposedly 'autonomous' body within another superior body, which is at the heart of the difficulties the EI European Region has faced.

UCU will vote for the Structure proposals and by-laws at the European Conference in November. We urge other unions to do so too. We will vote against any proposed amendments that seek to dilute the principle of unity at European level or undermine Europe's place in EI's global structures. We know that our views are shared by the other unions in the British and Irish Group of Teachers' Unions.

UCU is strongly committed both to increased internal democracy and efficiency within the Pan-European Structure, and clearer visibility for a single, unified European organisation in the policy main forums of Europe. The post-school sector in particular has suffered from the internal discontinuities and the confused external image that the divisions between the EI Pan European structure and the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) has caused. Higher education is a sector with strong Pan European and global characteristics. The division between ETUCE and EI responsibility has never reflected the realities in this sector and the development of the Bologna Process has highlighted these difficulties. There is no doubt that the voice of the academic staff was kept out of the Bologna Process during its formative years substantially because of the existence of two parallel structures which could be played off against each other. The steady increase of global dialogue on the future of post-school education makes it all the more important that the sector is unified and that it is firmly linked into global union structures. These sectoral concerns have an increasing relevance and importance for other sectors and for education as a whole.

We are now anxious for the debate on structure which has absorbed so much time and energy, to be brought to a satisfactory conclusion, in a way that meets the expectations of the European Conference and that is consistent with the constitution and culture of Education International. We are convinced that only an integrated structure within EI can do this. Any other 'solution' will ensure that the debate, and the damaging problems that have provoked it, will go on. The debate has already been unnecessarily prolonged and complicated by myths and misunderstandings about just what an integrated structure will involve. The proposals circulated in the name of the President form a coherent and workable package. It seems likely that any proposed amendments, including those that have been circulated as an annex to the consultation document,

would be a recipe for confusion and delay. We are clear that those amendments, or a version of the proposals which contains them, cannot command a 2/3 majority of votes at the European conference – all they would do is ensure that the status quo which has proved so unsatisfactory, will continue.

We believe that the constitutional proposals achieve the integration that the last European conference demanded. They will eliminate the confusion and waste in the present structures and provide a single understandable European structure, internally efficient and democratic, with a unified, authoritative voice to the outside world, and crucially, with the key strong links to the world teachers' union movement which are essential in the increasingly integrated global polity.

The distinctive Pan-European and EU needs will be met in the new structure. EU matters will be dealt with, and voted on, by the unions from EU countries, which is the core issue of principle which was raised in the discussions at the last European Conference. We will have a clearer, stronger structure and larger secretariat able to address our concerns without the discontinuities which exist now. The positions of the current ETUCE General Secretary and other staff working in ETUCE and EI will be safeguarded – a vital guarantee for us as trade unionists. Potentially the security and career opportunities of present and future staff will be enhanced in a larger organisational structure.

The doubts which some have voiced on whether the new structure will achieve recognition at the European level are simply unfounded. EI Europe is already a big player at the European level, and with a new integrated structure making use of the 'ETUCE' title which is familiar in the EU structures, the change will take place without any difficulty. But also, the changes will ensure that the broader European initiatives, for example emanating from the OECD or the Bologna Process, are dealt with most effectively and in a coherent way. There will be an end to the confusion over who represents European teachers which has damaged our effectiveness in recent years, as well as a strengthened capacity to respond to outside developments and to be more pro-active.

The proposed new structure will be fully compatible with the EI world constitution, and we are sure, would be supported by the European members of the world Executive, and would be endorsed at world level, which is an essential requirement for its adoption. But the 'ETUCE' name will signal the distinctive character of the European Region. The integration of the European structures is essential to the European region and to the place of Europe within the global family of EI. The global economic crisis, GATS, Bologna, all demand a truly global as well as a European response. Any attempts to erect new walls around relations with the European Union, are retrograde and harmful – they don't even recognise the extent to which the EU itself has opened up beyond its own formal boundaries.

The University and College Union strongly supports the proposed constitutional changes. They will build a single unified structure at long last. They will make the most of our limited resources. They will ensure we maximise our strength and authority in Europe. They will bring to an end years of sterile debates on Structure and enable us to concentrate on working for our members. We urge all EI European unions to support them.

4 September 2009

ULSTER TEACHERS' UNION – RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED NEW BY-LAWS FOR THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL STRUCTURE OF EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL

The Ulster Teachers' Union (UTU) represents teachers in nursery, primary, secondary and special schools in Northern Ireland. Despite the fact that the teachers UTU represents live right on the periphery of Europe, nevertheless they take a keen interest in European matters and the UTU involves itself in a great number of the seminars, conferences and activities organised by both Education International and ETUCE.

The UTU fully supports the proposals for changes to the by-laws in order to streamline the current structures which are unnecessarily complex and create duplication of provision. It is confusing for member organisations to have two bodies working separately on broadly similar issues. One integrated body would be better able to focus on the important areas of work and deliver better outcomes.

UTU also supports the use of the ETUCE name for continuity and believes that there should be minimal difficulty in harmonising the existing structures under the Education International banner.

The future employment security of existing EI and ETUCE staff is paramount in the new arrangements and the UTU is satisfied that this can be managed without detriment to current post holders.

The UTU believes that it is important that this debate now be ended with a commitment to take forward whatever changes are necessary to ensure the best service can be provided to the constituent bodies of EI. The UTU intends to vote for the current proposals so that the focus can return to the core work of the organisation, giving teachers a strong and united voice in Europe.

NUT Response to the consultation on proposed Pan European structure and new by-laws.

The National Union of Teachers, NUT, is the largest teachers' union in Europe representing teachers in Early Childhood Education, primary and secondary schooling.

The NUT has a longstanding position that integration of work at European level is a necessity for teachers unions in Europe. On that basis the NUT with vote enthusiastically for the structure proposals and the new by-laws as circulated by the President at the European Conference in Warsaw in November.

Further the NUT is clear that an end must be brought to the debate which has been on going. Over the period of this debate it is clear that some positions have altered to achieve the current proposals which are completely acceptable to the NUT

A significant issue for the NUT is that the new structure will be fully compatible with the EI world constitution. However, the retention of the name ETUCE will be important in ensuring a smooth transition to the new arrangements.

The need to make the most effective use of the human and financial resources on behalf of teacher unions across Europe is an imperative. The new structure will meet the distinctive Pan European and EU needs as well as being a stronger structure with a larger secretariat. Such confusion, real or apparent as has existed over the years will be removed.

A key consideration must be the employment situation of current staff of ETUCE and Ele. The NUT is satisfied that assurances have been given in this regard as to security of employment.

The NUT can find no arguments against the proposals and urges all union to vote in favour and to move forward to a structure which will strengthen teacher trade unionism in Europe.

London
11 September 2009

BRITISH AND IRISH GROUP OF TEACHERS' UNIONS

A response to the consultation on the proposed new draft by-laws for the European regional structure of Education International

The British and Irish Group of Teachers' Unions represents the eleven EI affiliates from the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland in Education International. We welcome the proposed new constitution set out in the consultation document circulated by the President. The Group will vote unanimously for the Structure proposals and new draft by-laws at the European Conference as they stand, at the European Conference in November. We will urge other unions to do so too.

We are anxious for the debate on structure which has absorbed so much time and energy, to be brought to a satisfactory conclusion, in a way that meets the expectations of the European Conference and that is consistent with the constitution and culture of Education International. We are convinced that only an integrated structure within EI can do this. Any other solution will ensure that the debate - and the damaging problems that have provoked it - will go on. The Group believes that the debate has already been unnecessarily prolonged and complicated by myths and misunderstandings about just what an integrated structure will involve, and by proposals for amendment to the package which would only perpetuate the confusion and dysfunction which led to the call for structural change.

We believe that the constitutional proposals achieve the integration that the last European conference demanded. They will eliminate the confusion and waste in the present structures and provide a single understandable European structure, internally efficient and democratic, with a unified, authoritative voice to the outside world, and crucially, with the key strong links to the world teachers' union movement which are essential in the increasingly integrated global polity.

The distinctive Pan-European and EU needs will be met in the new structure. We will have a clearer, stronger structure and larger secretariat able to address our concerns without the discontinuities which exist now. EU matters will be dealt with, and voted on, by the unions from EU countries, which is the core issue of principle which was raised in the discussions at the last European Conference.

The doubts which some have voiced about whether the new structure will achieve recognition at the European level are simply unfounded. It is understood that all ETUCE members are members of EI European region. EI Europe is already a big player at the European level, and with a new integrated structure making use of the 'ETUCE' title which is familiar in the EU structures, the change will take place without any difficulty. But also, the changes will ensure that the broader European initiatives, for example emanating from the OECD or the Bologna Process, are dealt with most effectively and in a coherent way. There will be an end to the real or apparent confusion over who represents European teachers which has damaged our effectiveness in recent years, as well as a strengthened capacity to respond to outside developments and to be more pro-active.

The new structure will be fully compatible with the EI world constitution, and we are sure, would be supported by the European members of the world Executive, and would be endorsed at world level, which is an essential requirement for its adoption. But the 'ETUCE' name will signal the distinctive character of the European Region. The integration of the European structures is essential to the European region and to the place of Europe within the global family of EI. The global economic crisis, GATS, Bologna, all demand a truly global as well as a European response. Any attempts to erect new walls around relations with the European Union, are retrograde and harmful - they do not even recognise the extent to which the EU itself has opened up beyond its own formal boundaries.

As trade unionists, we welcome the assurances that have been given regarding the protection of the present EI European and ETUCE staff. We understand that their employment position will be protected and potentially their security and career opportunities will be enhanced in a larger organisational structure.

The British and Irish Group of Teachers' Unions strongly asserts its support for the proposed constitutional changes. They will build a single unified structure at long last. They will make the most of our limited resources. They will ensure we maximise our strength and authority in Europe. They will bring to an end years of sterile debates on Structure and enable us to concentrate on working for our members. We urge all EI European unions to support them.

**BIGTU members: Ireland - ASTI, IFUT, INTO, TUI United Kingdom - ATL, EIS,
NASUWT, NUT, SSTA, UCU, UTU**