

n°3 - September. 2009

UNI Commerce

Bulletin

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Special Issue

Countdown to Dublin

With just a few days left before the opening of the UNI Commerce global conference in Dublin, this special edition of our sector bulletin will provide you with some additional information on the event.

This is the first time since Chicago in 2005 that we are all gathered. And the timing of the conference couldn't be better. We are in the midst of a global economic crisis which is threatening hundreds of thousands of workers in our sector alone. Economists have stated lately that things are ever so slowly turning to the better. But we reserve the right to be sceptical as the very same economists predicted never ending growth and happiness just a few weeks before the banks and stock markets collapsed.

GLOBAL ALLIANCES FOR GLOBAL ACTION



The Slogan of the conference is "Global Alliances for Global Action" pointing out the new focus of UNI Commerce

At the conference we will discuss the impact of the global economic crisis on the sector, but the main focus of the conference will be on how we can increase our impact on the global corporations, strengthen our organising and bargaining power and how to improve the cooperation within our organisation, linking the four regions even closer together.

Discussions at the conference will be centred around three themes:

More and Better Employment: Corporate Social Responsibility; New technologies; Skills development and Precarious jobs are only a few of the topics that we will be discussing. Union and external experts will share their views with us and help us identify ways to incorporate decent work into corporate policies, monitor the implementation of international labour standards and develop good CSR practice in multinational companies.

Global Organising, Global Companies, Global Agreements: We will discuss how by developing union alliances and strategic organising campaigns we can build social dialogue with multinational companies in the sector to achieve global agreements.

Communication and Networking: Union strategies that help increase active member participation, link local and global activities and build global networks will be developed.

Global Agreement with Inditex to be signed

During the conference on October 2nd, UNI and Inditex will sign a global agreement, establishing a global dialogue with the unions and recognising organising and worker rights throughout all operations. The signing ceremony will be followed by a joint press conference to which all conference participants are welcome.

Practical Information

We now have more than 200 participants from 51 unions and 36 countries spanning the entire globe, 37.5% of which are women. The conference will be held at the Hotel Crowne Plaza Dublin-Northwood, but due to the great interest in the conference participants will be staying in four different hotels, all of them close to the conference venue. If delegations or regions plan to have a joint dinner on the Wednesday we suggest you check out www.visitdublin.com for restaurant recommendations and to make reservations.

Conference Blog

A conference blog has been set up and all participants to express and exchange their views on the issues discussed during the conference. <http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Blogs/ComConf2009.nsf>

Documents and information

Affiliates can download all conference documents at

www.uniglobalunion.org/commerce

Meet MANDATE—our host union

The Mandate Trade Union, our hosts in Dublin was formed in 1994 with the amalgamation of trade unions IDATU and INUVGATA . It is now the third largest trade union in the Republic of



Ireland with over 45,000 members. Mandate primarily represents workers in the retail and bar industries, which in turn is the largest employment sector in the country. Mandate is a union dedicated to the principle of giving power directly to union members. As an organising and campaigning union, Mandate is working to grow union membership in the retail sector in Ireland. To help them towards achieving this objective Mandate has established a national organising structure and department to push forward our strategy for growth.

Welcome to Dublin

Dublin is the capital of Ireland. It is officially known in Irish as Baile Átha Cliath. The English name comes from the Irish Dubh Linn meaning "black pool". Originally founded as a Viking settlement, the county of Dublin has a population of 1,186,821.

Forthcoming Events

6/ 7/ 8 October 2009:
CICE Carrefour, Warsaw

7-9 October 2009:
SAI Advisor Board, Rome

14 to 16 October 2009:
UNI Americas Regional Commerce Conference and Launch UNI Americas Walmart Alliance, Santiago

27 to 30 October 2009:
UNI Europa Commerce Steering Committee & EWC Conference, Berlin

4/ 5 November 2009:
Metro EWC Steering Committee, Düsseldorf

15 December 2009:
EU-SD Commerce Plenary Meeting, Brussels

UNI global union

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