

## **Preparing for a social dialogue committee in the sport sector**

19<sup>th</sup> January 2002

The first meeting of the steering group of the project « preparing for a Social Dialogue Committee in the Sport Sector » took place in Paris on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2002. The steering group decided on its priorities for the next months. The objective is to research and identify the relevant national social partners for the sport sector in the EU member states and to investigate how a social dialogue at European level could be established. A conference is scheduled to take place in November 2002 in Brussels.

Contact : [sabrina.demarchi@union-network.org](mailto:sabrina.demarchi@union-network.org)

## **Meeting organised by the CEDEFOP on European qualifications**

22<sup>th</sup> January 2002

During a meeting organised by the CEDEFOP on 22 January 2002 in Brussels on the subject of European qualifications at sectoral level, François Ballestero, UNI-EG Secretary, presented a study on Qualification Profiles in the European Printing Industry that UNI-EG has undertaken jointly with Intergraf. He stressed the emergence of new vocational profiles, mainly induced by digitalisation. He also underlined the necessity of a follow-up of the study, in particular by creating a European passport for vocational qualifications in the graphical sector. In the second part of the meeting Annette Mikkelsen briefed the participants on the work done within the framework of the Social Dialogue in the bank and insurance sectors. i.e. the projects on IT-employability and Lifelong Learning in the bank sector as well as the "Training and Skills Needs" project in the insurance sector.

Contact : [annette.mikkelsen@union-network.org](mailto:annette.mikkelsen@union-network.org) or [francois.ballestero@union-network.org](mailto:francois.ballestero@union-network.org)

## **New collective agreement for bank workers in Georgia**

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2002

TUBIG, UNI-Europa Georgian affiliate, created in 1998, managed to conclude a new collective agreement with the Bank of Georgia, despite strong opposition from management. In addition, the union recently started negotiations with the association of banks of Georgia on a collective agreement to cover the whole branch.

Contact: [olga.vinogradova@union-network.org](mailto:olga.vinogradova@union-network.org)

## **Social affairs commissioner to support the start of a social dialogue in the IT and graphical sector**

24<sup>th</sup> January 2002

A UNI-Europa delegation, led by its Regional Secretary asked Commissioner Diamantopoulou to extend her support to the start of a dialogue in the IT. The Commissioner said that she was keen to help starting informal talks in this key sector of the economy. Mrs Diamantopoulou, together with Commissioner Liikanen would write, to the IT employers' organisations concerned, inviting them to discuss issues such as employability and training together with UNI-Europa. Intergraf (employers in the graphical sector) will also be invited for informal discussions over the possibility to start a dialogue in the graphical sector. The Commissioner agreed that national government should give a priority to projects aimed at retraining Euro printers. UNI-Europa will be invited to speak to the European Social Fund administrative committee in that respect.

Contact : [bernadette.tesch-segol@union-network.org](mailto:bernadette.tesch-segol@union-network.org)

## **UNI-Europa Commerce launches project to organise Metro workers in Moscow.**

24<sup>th</sup> January 2002

UNI-Europa commerce and the Russian commercial workers' trade union will co-operate in a project to organise the Metro Cash and Carry wholesale hypermarkets in Moscow. This is the first project of this kind in Russia. This organising effort has attracted much attention and interest in Moscow trade union circles. It will build on the experiences of Poland where UNI-Europa Commerce and Solidarnosc have worked together for the last two years with good results.

Contact: [olga.vinogradova@union-network.org](mailto:olga.vinogradova@union-network.org)

## **European Bank Social Partners visit their counterparts in Slovenia on 24 -25 January 2002**

24<sup>th</sup> January 2002

A joint bank social dialogue roundtable was held with the support of the European Commission in Slovenia on 24-25 January. The objective was to exchange views on current structures of social dialogue and industrial relations in order to help prepare for the accession process. The meeting in Slovenia was the sixth in a series of roundtables in EU candidate countries held by the European Bank Social Partners. Participation by a high-level government official and considerable press attention helped raise the profile

of this meeting. Drago Jurenc, President of the Slovenian Banking Union, expressed hope that the roundtable would help restore the current deadlock in the Slovenian Bank social dialogue.

Contact : [annette.mikkelsen@union-network.org](mailto:annette.mikkelsen@union-network.org)

### **EMF/UNI-Europa co-operation**

25<sup>th</sup> January 2002

UNI-Europa and EMF are preparing to hold a joint seminar on mergers and acquisitions in the second half of 2002. The seminar will be organised with the support of ETUCO. It will be the first meeting of this type. A first preparatory meeting was held in Brussels between the EMF and UNI-Europa secretariats on 25th January 2002.

Contact : [bernadette.tesch-segol@union-network.org](mailto:bernadette.tesch-segol@union-network.org)

### **Future of state-owned German Landesbanken - Meeting with DG Competition**

30<sup>th</sup> January 2002

UNI-Europa raised its concerns over the future of state-owned Landesbanken and Sparkassen in Germany in a meeting with Ronald Feltkamp, Head of Unit (State Aids) in DG Competition. UNI Europa was represented by Jörg Reinbrecht from Ver.di and Annette Mikkelsen from UNI-Europa. State-owned banks account for 35 % of Germany's banking market and employ around 320000 employees. However, the deal reached between the Commission and the German government on 17 July 2001 to abolish loan guarantees will almost certainly compel many German public sector banks to submit to mergers and takeovers. Hence, this deal will have severe consequences for jobs. UNI-Europa also stressed the need for including a social dimension to competition rules in the EU. Ronald Feltkamp welcomed closer contact and future dialogue with trade unions. Contact: [annette.mikkelsen@union-network.org](mailto:annette.mikkelsen@union-network.org)

### **Preparatory Social Dialogue discussion with CIETT**

31th January 2002

Bob Ramsay met with the leadership of CIETT to prepare forthcoming discussions in Social Dialogue. It was agreed that the next meeting of the committee should hear reports on successful efforts in re-integration to the labour market. Considering the new Directive, soon to be circulated to the European Parliament, it may also be possible to consider a joint reaction by the social partners.

Contact : [bob.ramsay@union-network.org](mailto:bob.ramsay@union-network.org)

### **Business Services Working Group**

31th January 2002

The development of ICT and internet enabled business services, the impact of GATS2000, organising and a strategy for social dialogue were key items on the agenda of UNI's Business Services Working Group, meeting in Nyon on 31 January, chaired by Karin Retvig of HK-Service in Denmark. The group felt, that it was necessary to lobby the EU institutions to develop more up to date and accurate statistics and update their definition of the sector, which still reflects reality of the early 80s but has become totally obsolete in the new millennium.

Contact : [gerd.rohde@union-network.org](mailto:gerd.rohde@union-network.org)

### **New labour code in Russia**

1st February 2002

The new labour code, criticised by Russian trade unions for reducing of labour and trade union rights came into force in Russia on 1st February 2002. The way to protect workers' rights will be discussed in a series of seminars organised by UNI-Europa Russian affiliates across all countries. The first of these seminars took place at the initiative of RCCWTU. Russian trade unions expect a rapid increase in labour disputes.

Contact: [olga.vinogradova@union-network.org](mailto:olga.vinogradova@union-network.org)

### **Annual consultation meeting with DG Internal Market- Finance sector**

5<sup>th</sup> February

On 5 February 2002, the annual consultation meeting with Commission representatives from DG Internal Market took place in Brussels. Discussions focused on issues such as; the financial services action plan (FSAP), risk capital, money laundering, mergers and acquisitions, prudential structures, financial reporting and the securities sector. A further meeting might be held in September 2002. It was decided that this meeting should also discuss the impact of the financial services action plan on growth/employment, up-date on enlargement negotiations regarding the Internal Market and developments in the WTO/GATS negotiations.

Contact : [annette.mikkelsen@union-network.org](mailto:annette.mikkelsen@union-network.org)

## **Towards a directive on services of general interest?**

9th February 2002

An ETUC/CEEP meeting took place 9th February 2002 to continue the discussion on the possibility to jointly draft a proposal for a directive on services of General interest. UNI-Europa Postal, Telecom, Media and banking sectors are particularly concerned by this initiative. UNI-Europa Executive Committee will reflect on the best way forward to ensure that some type of services have to be offered, independently from their profitability.

Contact: [bernadette.tesch-segol@union-network.org](mailto:bernadette.tesch-segol@union-network.org)

## **Svyazinvest to lay off 40 000 workers**

12th February 2002

Telecommunication's holding Svyazinvest is planning to lay off some 40 000 at its subsidiaries nation wide in an effort to cut expenditure. UNI-Europa Russian affiliate RCWU has told Svyazinvest that the layoffs would violate a program put in place to protect workers during restructuring. Workers must be laid off only as a last resort, the union said. Following a RCWU initiative, a special working group between Svyazinvest and RCWU was created to find out ways for minimisation of the restructuring impact. Union representatives will participate in Svyazinvest's board meetings at which layoffs will be discussed.

Contact: [olga.vinogradova@union-network.org](mailto:olga.vinogradova@union-network.org)

## **European Company Statute (SE-Statute)**

15th February 2002

UNI-Europa is currently developing its policy regarding the establishment of European Companies (SE). The first of such companies based on EU law can be created in October 2004. Legislation generally requires an agreements between the companies founding an SE and their workforcess on workers's involvement in company decisions. The key objective of UNI-Europa will be to build up a structure to support affiliates and workers in the negotiations. A seminar on the SE and EWC will take place in Florence from 2 to 5 March."

Contact : [oliver.roethig@union-network.org](mailto:oliver.roethig@union-network.org)

## **Conference on the cleaning industry in Budapest**

15-16 February 2002

The conference was organised by the Hungarian cleaning employer organisation (MATISz). The cleaning employer organisations from Czech Republic and from Romania attended the conference. EFCI (European Federation of the Cleaning Industry), Nicola Konstantinou and Joseph Saling, president of KASz and member of UNI-Europa Executive Committee represented UNI-Europa. UNI-Europa insisted on the need to have trade unions representatives in the CEEC countries. UNI-Europa stressed the need to develop a well-articulated social dialogue at all levels (European, national and company) in the CEEC's as per the joint opinion of the social partners at European level. Jozsef Saling informed participants of some initiatives taken by the Hungarian government which will have a great impact on the cleaning industry (minimum wages, working time, undeclared work, public tendering) and stressed the need to develop a social dialogue for the cleaning industry in Hungary. MATISz replied that it will invite Jozsef Saling in a near future in order to examine these issues together.

Contact : [nicola.konstantinou@union-network.org](mailto:nicola.konstantinou@union-network.org)

## **UNI-EG Steering Committee Meeting**

18th February 2002

The members of the UNI-Europa graphical Steering Committee met on 18 February 2002 in Brussels. The Steering Committee reviewed the European works councils situation, UNI-Europa graphical budget and prepared UNI-Europa graphical due to take place in The Hague on 11 and 12 October 2002. The theme of the Conference will be "Strong Unions in a stronger and more democratic Europe". The Conference will represent an opportunity to tackle the essential issue of strengthening the unions in a rapidly changing society.

Contact : [francois.ballestero@union-network.org](mailto:francois.ballestero@union-network.org)