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**OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
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To:

Ronnie Smith, President of the Pan-European Structure-ETUCE  
Martin Romer, General Secretary of ETUCE  
Charlie Lennon, Chief Coordinator of EIE

Proposals for the new By-laws of ETUCE-EIE

The Executive Board of OLME believes that it is a fundamental, **democratic right** of the European trade unions to have their own **independent trade union** to deal with problems in education as well as with the teachers' problems .

In our opinion, the main issue at the ETUCE level is the establishment of its **democratic function**, the development of dialogue among the education unions in Europe, in order to deal with the issues occurring in the EU countries and mainly the **development of resistance** in the EU emanating policies, implemented by the member states. Therefore, we believe that it is important to include in the new By-laws the **political independence** of the new ETUCE in relation to the EU and its ability to determine its own policy in relation to the EU policies.

Nowadays, the policies exercised by the EU countries in the fields of employment (such as flexibility in employment, freezing or even reduction of salaries, e.t.c), in insurance systems (such as an increase in age limits, collapse of the insurance funds e.t.c) and in education (privatization , denigration of teachers e.t.c) they call for the greatest possible development of the collective resistance of the trade union movement in every country as well as in the whole of Europe.

The Bureau of the Executive Board proposes that the General Secretary of the new ETUCE should not be elected by the Conference/General Assembly, but to be appointed by the EI Bureau. However, in that way EI has a direct control over ETUCE. Therefore, the General Secretary, who according to the By-laws is the person responsible for the ETUCE administration, he will not be accountable neither to his organization nor to the Union representatives in Europe but to the General Secretary of EI and the EI Bureau.

We totally disagree with this prevision of the proposed draft By-laws. For OLME, **being elected** in the administrative bodies of ETUCE as well as in the position of the General Secretary is a right **non-negotiable**, that should be established by the new By-laws and we do not see any legal incapacity in that.

Under these circumstances, the content of the By-laws is first and foremost a political issue and secondly a typical or a legal one. Therefore, we propose that the new By-laws should:

- a) Establish an essential political autonomy of ETUCE in relation to the EU.
- b) Establish the organizational and political autonomy of ETUCE towards ETUC and EI.
- c) Establish a more democratic, internal function of ETUCE in decision making (Instead of the Bureau, the Executive Committee should undertake this task since representatives

from all countries participate in it) and an extraordinary conference/ General Assembly should be called on serious issues.

d) All countries, the federations of which participate in ETUCE and EI, should be referred to with such a name as it is recognized by the United Nations in all the official and unofficial documents of ETUCE and EI.

e) Greek language should be added to the official languages of ETUCE as well as the other languages which are officially recognized at a European level.

f) We are in favour of all the proposed amendments in Annex A (election of General Secretary, organizational autonomy e.t.c)

g) If there is no consensus in these proposals then we should adhere to the current By-laws and structures.

For the E.B. of OLME

The President

The General Secretary

Ο Πρόεδρος  
Δημήτρης Πεππές

Για το Δ.Σ. της ΟΛΜΕ

Ο Γεν. Γραμματέας  
Νίκος Παπαχρήστος



Dimitris Peppes

Nikos Papaxristos