

JOINT PRESS AND PUBLIC RELEASE

On 19 September 2009 the third General Assembly of the Regional Energy Trade Union Network of South East Europe (RETUNSEE) was held in Belgrade, gathering 22 trade unions from 13 countries. The Assembly was attended by delegation of Visegrad five in capacity of observers, and eminent guests from the country and from abroad. The General Assembly considered a whole range of topical and very important issues:

The main message of the Conference, sent in the text of the adopted Declaration of the Network's General Assembly, emphasizes that neoliberal policy, implemented for over 20 years by multinational companies, banks, funds, governments and parties of certain rich countries, caused the world economic crisis! In the Resolution, it is strongly underlined that we must not allow the consequences of the global crisis, caused by others, to be laid on the shoulders of employees, pensioners and citizens!!

The RETUNSEE General Assembly has sent an appeal to international trade union organizations: ICEM, PCI, EMCEF and EPSU, to get unified and to act with concerted efforts because their individual endeavours and rivalry have very detrimental consequences for the interests and rights of employees in Europe and worldwide!!

The Conference also adopted a document streamlining long-term strategy and policy of the Network toward the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community for South East Europe, and toward the Social Forum. The document demands establishment of a genuine, equitable and honest social dialogue with RETUNSEE and points to the historical and life necessity of preserving natural resources, enterprises, wealth and environment belonging to nations, citizens and future generations of our region!

The General Assembly sent a letter of warning to the Serbian Government expressing resolute support to trade unions of EPS (Serbian Electric Utility) and NIS (Serbian Oil Company) in their striving to preserve energy resources and public companies, for the best interest of the country's employees and citizens.

The Conference also sent out an appeal to all public company trade unions in South East Europe to embark on creating a big regional network that will have a vision, long-term strategy and clear goals, in the interest of employees, citizens and nations of our region!

This high forum dedicated a special attention to statutory issues, obtained information on problems and specificities in South East Europe in the area of energy and in the respective countries of RETUNSEE trade union member organizations, then of the forthcoming electoral conference to be held in 2010 in Romania, of possible enlargement of the Regional Network, etc.

The General Assembly once again reiterated the basic principle and policy of the Network: advocacy and struggle of RETUNSEE for maintenance of peace, friendship and cooperation in the region and worldwide, for peaceful settlement of all disputes, through dialogue!

**On behalf of the Regional Network
The Presidency**

