22. Proposal strengthening cooperation EFBWW and BWI

Submitted by: FNV-Netherlands

The FNV is a great proponent of renewal of the trade union tasks across the sectors fitting the globalisation. Steps must be taken to stop the declining membership, to work on membership growth, and to strengthen the position of the trade union, to find answers to migration issues, and the growing number of independent professionals. In the Netherlands, a start was made with a merger between industry associations, creating a new more democratic structure and integrated work-organisation. The position and influence of members is important in these processes. Members should be able identify with the union based on highly visible activities within the sectors and the companies, the trade union work must be carried out nearby workers and with members. Democratic control by elected representatives of member within the union must be guaranteed. The FNV realizes the importance of these steps and acknowledge that although mayor changes have been put forward, we are not finished jet.

The FNV, therefore, calls up on the congress to urge the members of the World Board of the BWI and members of the executive committee of the EFBWW to jointly take further steps, to develop joint proposals, to create support and to consult with the EFBWW Members during the new congress period in order to reinforce the cooperation between the EFBWW and the BWI, without excluding any possible solution beforehand. This process should be aimed to develop a structure and method which is more transparent, where duplications, including when it comes to finances and meetings are avoided, that better match the globalization, that strengthens the position of national trade unions and reinforces the EFBWW and the BWI, and improves the interests of our members. There is no template or blueprint for the goal, the dot on the horizon, as it is established by a process of consideration of national interests and with other regions of the world in good consultation within the BWI. Furthermore, FNV stresses that the solution must by globally applicable: has to take the European interests into account and has to be in line with BWI statutes.

SIGNATURE: