



# *inform* **contact**

## **NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS**

No.90

October – December 2015

---

### **GCTU HAILS LUCA VISENTINI**

GCTU General Secretary Vladimir Scherbakov sent a congratulatory message to Luca Visentini who was elected ETUC General Secretary to replace outgoing Bernadette Segol at the ETUC 13<sup>th</sup> Congress that completed its work 2 October 2015 in Paris. The message says:

“Dear Brother Visentini,  
“On behalf of the General Confederation of Trade Unions and its affiliates let me cordially congratulate you on your successful election to the high post of General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation.

“We wish the ETUC and you personally new accomplishments in the struggle you are waging for the vital interests of organised workers in the face of grim challenges presented by the current situation in the post-crisis Europe. Let me assure you that both our

Confederation and its affiliates are willing to continue friendly links and dialogue with the ETUC and its member-organisations on common problems facing today European workers and their trade unions”.

### **GCTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS IN MOSCOW**

The Executive Committee of the General Confederation of Trade Unions (GCTU) met 19 November 2015 in the Palace of Labour, Moscow.

Having heard the information on the advance of the GCTU-launched joint solidarity campaign “Minimum Wages Above the Subsistence Minimum Level”, Committee noted that most countries of the region had shown an increase in the minimum wages.

However, the main goal of the campaign has not been reached.

Moreover, in some countries the minimum wages are increasingly lagging behind the subsistence minimum levels.

The Executive Committee decided it was necessary to press more energetically for legislation introducing mechanisms for indexation of minimum wages linked to the consumer price rises, and insist on the ratification of ILO Convention 131 on Minimum Wage Fixing in the region's countries where it had not yet been ratified.

The Committee summed up the contribution by GCTU member-organisations to the World Day for Decent Work-2015, stressing that in critical situations the relevance of decent work principles does not devalue, but, on the contrary, increases manifold. The member-organisations were called upon to analyse all demands and claims put forward by WDDW-campaigners, take fuller account of them in their activities, and work for their satisfaction and implementation in their respective countries.

Participants considered the proposals for amending the GCTU Constitution prepared by an ad hoc Commission set up for the purpose by the Executive Committee. Having discussed the results of the work done, the Committee approved in principle the presented draft Constitution incorporating the amendment proposals, and decid-

ed to send it out to the affiliated organisations for consideration and feedback.

## **GCTU STATEMENT ON UN DAY**

“On the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, the world will be marking the Day of the United Nations which celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year.

“The creation of the United Nations in 1945 was a most significant result of the Second World War, of the Great Victory of humanity over Nazism. It ushered in a new era in world history, as the founders declared their desire to work together in order to save future generations from the scourge of war, promote friendly links between peoples with full respect for the principle of equality and the right of nations to self-determination, and seek peaceful solutions to international problems arising in the economic, social and humanitarian fields. This activity has been safely based on the UN Charter, a landmark international instrument setting out the fundamentals of contemporary international law and relations between countries.

“Looking back, the United Nations has every right to be proud of its contribution to the post-war transformation of the world. It has played a key role in maintaining peace and security, the elimination of colonialism and apartheid, the eradication of deadly diseases,

and environment protection. Within its walls, the important concept of sustainable development was born to become one of the determining factors in the life of today's world.

“Proceeding from the principle of harmonising the positions of all countries, the UN has developed a mechanism of global governance that has helped to save the human race from the horrors of a new world war, and to prevent or halt a great number of bloody international conflicts. This should be regarded as a major result of its seventy-year activity. In the humanitarian sphere, its role in protecting human rights has won world-wide acclaim. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN in December 1948 has long become a reference book for all fighters for fundamental rights and freedoms of all people.

“As an organisation enjoying consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, associated with the UN Department of Public Information, and actively involved in activities of a major UN institution, the International Labour Organisation, the General Confederation of Trade Unions welcomes the broad cooperation the United Nations maintains with non-governmental organisations. The extensive network of interaction with them makes it possible for the UN to take into account the views of civil society, including trade unions,

when addressing burning issues of present-day world development at the international political level.

“We are particularly satisfied that, over recent decades, the United Nations has been paying markedly more attention to the social aspects of international security. This has contributed towards adding a social dimension to globalisation, which we have been advocating together with all trade unions in the world. We regard as invaluable such UN documents, as the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995), the Millennium Declaration that has identified the development goals for the 21st century, the decisions by environmental summits, various international conventions and pacts, and other UN policy instruments.

“The GCTU hails the UN's new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the Special Summit on the eve of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2015. The idea of decent work has been incorporated in the text of the document, which suggests that the embodiment of decent work has from now on been proclaimed as a priority goal not only for each separate national state, but also for the entire international community as a whole. This gives fresh inspiration to the unions in our region, as well as elsewhere in the world to pro-

ceed with their campaign for the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda, which they have been waging for many years within the International Labour Organisation.

“The General Confederation of Trade Unions, with a total membership of more than 50 million workers on the post-Soviet expanse, will continue to actively support the efforts of the world community led by the United Nations aiming to remove the global challenges that today hinder the advance towards decent labour, social justice, peace and mutual understanding between peoples.

“On behalf of its members, the GCTU congratulates the United Nations on its 70th Anniversary and wishes success in its further activities, so crucial to all people inhabiting the Earth. We are confident that, despite all the hardships of this trying period, its authority and role will only increase, and its status will grow even stronger.

*General Confederation  
of Trade Unions”*

## **GCTU ATTENDS HIGH-LEVEL CIS EVENTS**

A GCTU delegation headed by General Secretary Vladimir Scherbakov participated in a regular session of the CIS Council of Heads of Government held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 30 October 2015.

Earlier in the day, before the session opened, Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon met with participants to welcome them and wish them a successful conference.

The session agenda included a wide range of items dealing with cooperation in the spheres of integration and socio-economic development of the Commonwealth countries.

Participants adopted several plans of activities concerning, in particular:

- the implementation of the third stage (2016–2020) of the CIS Economic Development Strategy till 2020;
- events to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Commonwealth of Independent States;
- activities to be held in 2016–2017 to implement the CIS Strategy for International Youth Cooperation;
- events to be organised in 2016–2018 as part of the measures to fulfil the CIS Strategy for the Development of Physical Training and Sports.

A GCTU delegation led by Vladimir Scherbakov took also part in the 43<sup>rd</sup> plenary session of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (IPA) 27 November 2015 in St.-Petersburg.

The meeting approved a package of 23 framework laws on labour migration; principles of the organising,

functions and funding of local governments; cooperation of the competent authorities to combat terrorism and corruption, and other issues crucial to the Commonwealth.

Five of the items on the agenda had been developed with the active involvement of GCTU experts.

With due consideration of the GCTU proposals and comments by the respective IPA Standing Commissions, the plenary session considered and approved the framework laws “On Migration”, “On Migration of Workforce”, and a number of other CIS legislative acts.

## **CONDOLENCES TO FRENCH WORKERS**

GCTU General Secretary Vladimir Scherbakov sent a message of solidarity to Philippe Martinez, General Secretary of CGT, in connection with the terrorist attacks in the French capital.

“The General Confederation of Trade Unions, the message reads, on behalf of its affiliates organising over 50 million workers, expresses sincere support for and solidarity with the workers and people of France in connection with the tragic events that took place in Paris 13 November 2015.

“We are shocked and deeply outraged at the terrorist attacks carried

out by henchmen of the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) that claimed the lives of 130 innocent people and injured 350 others.

“We express our sincere condolences and convey our deepest sympathies to the victims and their families. We hope the organisers of this appalling terrorist attack will be promptly found and severely punished.

“Workers in our region believe that, in this context, trade unions must close their ranks to ensure the accomplishment of our common objectives, i.e. a brighter future for our children, the well-being and prosperity of countries and peoples, and peaceful and decent work for all people on this planet.”

## **GCTU AFFILIATES OBSERVE WDDW-2015**

The GCTU called on its affiliates to actively observe the World Day for Decent Work in 2015 under the umbrella slogan “Decent Work Makes Decent Life”.

Responding to the call, millions of trade-union activists took part in the various activities, held by the GCTU member organisations in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, and Ukraine.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, Armenian trade unions organised a march in central Yerevan involving staff members of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Armenia (CTUA) headed by CTUA President Eduard Tumasian, leaders of industrial trade unions, and grass-root unionists carrying posters with topical social demands. The march ended up in a massive rally.

In Kazakhstan, activists of the trade-union youth movement “Keleshek” (Future) held an action entitled “1000 Steps for Decent Work”. As part of this action, young union leaders organised a procession in a main street of the city of Kustanai, greeting local folks on their way and telling them about the World Day for Decent Work.

To mark the WDDW-15, the National Confederation of Trade Unions of Moldova (CNSM) held a meeting in Chisinau 7 October under the title “Stop profiteering through exploitation of workers!”. Participants approved a list of demands to state authorities and called on all citizens of the country to join efforts in the struggle to promote decent work principles in the Republic of Moldova.

The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FNPR) organized a nation-wide action “For Decent Work” under the umbrella logo “For a fair budgetary policy! No – to the arbitrariness of finan-

cers!” According to estimates, 1 million 723 thousand people took part in the FNPR action. 91 rallies and more than 23 thousand meetings took place all around the country, the largest of them in Siberia, and the Chelyabinsk and Sverdlovsk regions.

## **AZERBAIJANI UNIONS 110 YEARS OLD**

A ceremonial meeting to mark the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Azerbaijani trade union movement took place 28 October 2015 in the National Musical Theatre in Baku.

Attending the event were government officials, leaders of international trade union organisations and trade union centres of several countries, and representatives of national trade unions.

As he addressed the meeting, President of the Azerbaijan Trade Unions Confederation (AHIK) and Member of Milli Mejlis (Parliament) Sattar Mohbaliyev congratulated participants warmly on the significant date, saying: “Today the trade unions of Azerbaijan can be considered as one of the main institutions of our civil society”.

AHIK, currently organising more than 1.6 million workers, has been waging a persistent fight to restore the violated labour and social rights of employees.

Bro Mikhail Shmakov, speaking as President of the GCTU and the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, warmly congratulated participants on the occasion of the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Azerbaijani trade unions.

### **BELARUS: UNION MOTTO “WE STAND TOGETHER!”**

The Presidium of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus (FPB) held a plenary session 16 October 2015 to review the results of FPB’s involvement in the presidential campaign that has successfully led Alexander Lukashenko to being re-elected President of the country.

Immediately after its 2<sup>nd</sup> plenary session took the decision to support the incumbent President, FPB launched an outreach and communication campaign to win his nomination.

A special place in the FPB canvassing campaign was given to people’s patriotic action entitled “We Stand Together!” that was held in 52 cities and towns all over the country.

Speaking to the session, FPB President Mikhail Orda said: “We have shown the degree of our cohesion, solidarity and strength. And the whole nation has eventually rallied around the motto of our unions: “We Stand Together!”

President Lukashenko met Mikhail Orda 23 December 2015 to thank him for the trade union contribution to the presidential campaign. “We do not make any secret that you, together with the youth organisations and in conjunction with state and local authorities, have done more than anyone else to ensure the high level of this election campaign. Our people have responded in a positive way, and this gives much credit to you and the trade union activists,” said the President.

Alexander Lukashenko stressed that the social protection of people should continue to be in the limelight, and for this reason the social state model would remain unchanged. He said that saving jobs and rendering social and legal protection to workers were the shared responsibility of the government and trade unions.

### **KAZAKHSTAN: NEW LABOUR CODE SIGNED**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2015, President of Kazakhstan signed the new Labour Code approved and passed by Parliament. The Code has been developed as part of a series of measures to implement the “Plan for the Nation: A Hundred Specific Steps Towards the Accomplishment of Five Institutional Reforms and Trends

Relating to the Upgrade of the Labour Relations System”.

The Federation of Trade Unions of the Republic of Kazakhstan (FPRK) had set up a working commission that did an arduous job analysing and discussing the new Labour Code. The result was that 117 changes and amendments proposed by the unions were introduced to its final version.

The President also signed the Law “On introducing changes and amendments to a number of legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan relating to labour regulation” whose aims it was to bring the current legislation in line with the new Labour Code.

The Code simplifies procedures for the employer to recruit personnel, reshuffle the staff, dismiss employees, and determine the work conditions and remuneration. Simultaneously, it enshrines the basic workers’ rights and guarantees, with a possibility of their extension through signing individual employment contracts or collective agreements/accords, and provides for mechanisms for protecting their rights and interests.

Besides, the role of trade unions in protecting the rights and interests of workers has been enhanced, especially considering the new possibilities provided for in the Law “On Trade Unions”.

## **KAZAKHSTAN: FPRK SUMS UP FOR 2015**

The FPRK General Council met for a session 23 December 2015 in Astana to sum up the results of its activity in 2015 and outline the guidelines for 2016.

The Council members heard information on the work done by the Federation and its affiliates to bring up the draft Labour Code for public discussion, and on the forthcoming collective bargaining campaign to be carried out in the new labour market situation.

Participants also discussed the new format of cooperation with the International Trade Union Confederation following the decision taken by the ITUC General Council to accept FPRK into ITUC affiliation (11 October 2015, Sao Paulo, Brazil).

The Council also heard information on the fulfilment of the FPRK Executive Committee decisions concerning the implementation of the *Programme of mergers and enlargements of industry-based trade unions*, and other operational activities.

## **KYRGYZSTAN: FKP HOLDS CONGRESS**

Two hundred and nineteen delegates representing 21 industry-based trade unions from all regions of the country took part in the



23rd Congress of the Kyrgyzstan Federation of Trade Unions (FPK) held 16 October 2015 to elect the new President of the Federation.

Delegates approved amendments to the Statutes of the Federation that are expected to help improve the trade union performance in the country.

The Council elected Zhanadil Abdrakhmanov (former manager of the trade union *Hotel Dostuk* in Bishkek) new President of FPK (he scored 118 out of 219 votes). According to participants of the congress, the elections were open, transparent and democratic.

Congress adopted an Appeal to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic calling for revision of the national social and economic policies, and for adoption of concrete measures to ensure a real improvement of the living standards.

Participants demanded that state regulation of pricing be introduced, the unreasonable rise in the prices of socially significant essentials and rates be stopped, and the ratification of the *ILO Convention No 102 on the minimum social security standards* be brought up for consideration.

### **MOLDOVA: UNIONS OUTRAGED AT ELECTRICITY RATES**

The National Trade Union Confederation of Moldova (CNSM)

demands convocation of an extraordinary session of the National Commission for Consultation and Collective Bargaining to agree on specific measures needed to protect incomes, wages, allowances and pensions, and press for compensation of the losses resulting from increased utility rates.

ACNSM Statement of 11 November 2015 says trade unions are against the electricity price rises, and eventual increases in natural gas rates. “The burden of the increased rates will make it impossible for the population to reimburse the sums they pay for housing and public utility services. Trade unions warn that further increases in the rates will send up the prices of foodstuffs and other goods and services”.

“In January-October this year, the Statement adds, the consumer price index has gone up by 11.5 per cent whereas the index of real wages reached 97.3 per cent in August 2015 as against August 2014. This proves that the purchasing power of wages is degrading.”

### **RUSSIA: FNPR HOLDS CEREMONIAL MEETING**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, 2016, the General Council of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FNPR) met for a solemn session in Moscow to mark the

110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the trade-union movement in Russia and the 25th Anniversary of FNPR. Among those attending the event was GCTU General Secretary Vladimir Scherbakov who addressed participants with a message of solidarity on behalf of the Confederation's affiliates.

Speaking to the meeting, FNPR President Mikhail Shmakov stressed that the proactive and consistent activities in defence of employees' rights had won the Federation high prestige among the country's workers and the respect of the social partners. For 25 years now, FNPR has rightfully been in the forefront of the civil society, fighting for the interests of working people.

The General Council also reviewed the outcome of the latest session of the Russian Tripartite Commission where the draft law on the Federal Budget-2016 had been discussed. The unions believe that, in a context of falling real wages and a planned increase in tax levies on citizens, the proposed draft, if adopted, would only deteriorate the economic conditions of people, and for this reason needs a thorough readjustment.

On the eve of the session, President Vladimir Putin met in the Kremlin with a group of FNPR high officials headed by Mikhail Shmakov. He complimented the trade unions on their having learnt to work effec-

tively in protecting the interests of workers.

"I know this firsthand, not only as the current Head of State, but also as the recent Prime Minister. We cooperated quite efficiently with many of you who are here today, but, first of all, with Mikhail Shmakov, within the Tripartite Commission, which is a key instrument for solving social problems and protecting workers' rights", said the President.

Mikhail Shmakov thanked the Head of State for his interest in the activity of trade unions.

### **UKRAINE: UNIONS INVOLVED IN ADOPTING NEW LABOUR CODE**

The Joint Representative Body of All-Ukraine Trade Unions issued a statement in connection with the adoption in the first reading by the Supreme Rada of the draft Labour Code of Ukraine. The statement calls on Parliament to take the responsibility before millions of people now employed in industrial enterprises, institutions and organisations in various industries whose daily work helps sustain the viability of the country. The unions demanded that the Government urgently send the draft Labour Code to the International Labour Office for expert evaluation and judgment on its compliance with ILO stand-

ards and other international legal acts.

An FPU Vice President, Sergey Ukrainets, attended the meeting of the Supreme Rada Committee on Social Policy, Employment and Pensions held 23 November 2015. According to him, the trade union proposals have been heeded, and a working group has been formed comprising MPs and delegates of the trade unions, the employers and the Cabinet of Ministers, with the involvement of researchers, labour law experts, specialists in practical application of labour legislation, and representatives of human resource departments of industrial enterprises. In addition, the trade union proposal that the draft Labour Code should be referred to the ILO for expert evaluation has been accepted, and it will take about four months to get the reply.

Representatives of all-Ukrainian trade unions of workers in the budgetary sector and the relevant government ministries and agencies met 8 December 2015 to hold consultations on the proposals for the State Budget for 2016. The unions are anxious to prevent the Government from implementing its intentions as outlined in the *Guidelines for Ukraine's Budgetary Policy for 2016*, including such measures as:

- dismantling of out-of-school education facilities, especially in the countryside;

- cancellation of benefits, wage premiums and other payments stipulated by law for those who combine jobs, and any additional payments for several categories of budgetary sector workers employed in hazardous work environments.

Trade unions will stick to their un-failing and principled position implying that the state budget must take into account the interests of working people.

### **UKRAINE: TIME FOR RESOLUTE TRADE UNION ACTION**

The Presidium of the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine (FPU) held a regular session in Kyiv 24 December 2015 to review the draft keynote documents prepared for the FPU 7<sup>th</sup> Congress scheduled to take place 24 March 2016. They included the drafts of the Programme of FPU Activity for 2016-2021, the Proposals for Amending the FPU Constitution, and the Strategy for Upgrading FPU and its Affiliates.

Upon consideration, Presidium decided to take the draft documents as a basis.

Participants also discussed the role of the country's trade unions in the struggle to protect workers' legitimate rights amidst the increasingly

grave social and economic situation that has reached a catastrophic pace and continues to accelerate.

The session heard the information on trade union involvement in the nation-wide protest action staged by miners who had set up picket lines in front of state government offices in Kyiv 23 December 2015. The miners' pickets were joined by FPU staff members and trade union activists from the budgetary sector, metallurgy, energy, housing and public utilities, civil service, education, etc.

The coal miners demanded that the Supreme Rada take measures to get the wage arrears settled in the industry, and adopt the law on a state budget for 2016 that would stipulate the allocation of budgetary funds for coal-mining, and a labour code that would be in full compliance with ILO conventions, European labour legislation, and the Constitution of Ukraine.

### **TIMBER AND FORESTRY UNIONS PROMOTING DECENT WORK**

A trade union delegation headed by President of the GCTU-affiliated Federation of Timber and Related Industries Workers' Unions of the CIS Viktor Karnyushin attended the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the CIS Intergovernmental Council for the Timber Complex and Forestry

that took place in Yerevan from 13–14 October 2015.

As he spoke to the session, the union leader suggested that the issues of elaborating and implementing decent work standards and their indicators should be incorporated in the plan for development of the timber and forestry complexes.

The Council reviewed the progress made in implementing the agreement on fire-fighting and preventive measures to suppress natural fires in the cross-border areas of CIS countries.

### **BUILDERS UNIONS CONSIDER SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION IN INDUSTRY**

The Executive Committee and the Council of the GCTU-affiliated International Confederation of Construction and Building Materials Industry Workers' Unions held their regular sessions in Moscow 19 and 21 October 2015. A GCTU Deputy General Secretary, Natalia Podshibyakina, took part in, and spoke to, both meetings.

In between the two sessions, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October, the Confederation held a round table discussion on "Practices and Challenges of the Implementation of Decent Work Principles and Social Justice in the Construction Industries of CIS Countries". Among those who

contributed to the debate was GCTU General Secretary Vladimir Scherbakov who focused on decent work as a key factor of human resource development.

In his activity report to the Council session, President of the Builders' Trade Union International Guennady Arzhanov said, among other things, that construction industries in virtually all CIS countries had shown further deterioration of most indicators characterising the state of business environment.

Based on the discussion that followed, the Council took the decision recommending that the member organisations should use all legitimate ways and means to help alleviate the adverse impact of the current economic hardships on construction industry workers and their families, with due regard for the actual situation prevailing in their countries and industries.

The Council adopted the resolution on the convocation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Election Conference of the International Confederation of Construction and Building Materials Industry Workers' Unions 20 January 2017.

## **RAILWAY UNIONS DISCUSS SITUATION IN INDUSTRY**

The Council of the GCTU-affiliated International Confederation of Railway Workers' and Transport

Builders' Unions (CRWTB) met for its 48<sup>th</sup> plenary session 4 November 2015 in Tashkent.

General Secretary of the Confederation Guennady Kosolapov reported to participants on the current situation in the industry and activities of its trade unions.

He told the meeting that the majority of the Confederation's affiliates had to carry out their activities in a situation of economic instability and shrinking volumes of freight and passenger transportation alike. Over the nine month of 2015 alone, the volume of freight handling had decreased by 5.1 per cent. The volume of international freight transport had dropped by 7.2 per cent, and amounted to a mere 15.2 per cent of the total transportation volumes.

Several trade union leaders took the floor to tell their colleagues about the social and economic situation of workers in their industries, and actions taken by the unions.

The Council heard the information on the work experience of the Uzbekistan railway trade union, and outlined the prospects for closer cooperation with the ILO Moscow office and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF).

The next, 49<sup>th</sup>, session of the Council will be held in March 2016 in Moscow.

PUBLISHED BY  
GCTU INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT AND  
GCTU PUBLIC RELATIONS CENTRE  
42 LENINSKY PROSPEKT  
119119 MOSCOW, RUSSIA  
TELEFAX +7(495) 938-2155  
PHONE +7(495) 938-0112  
Web site: [www.vkp.ru](http://www.vkp.ru);  
E-mail: [inter@vkp.ru](mailto:inter@vkp.ru)

---

THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, GCTU, IS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ORGANISATION THAT WAS FOUNDED AT ITS FIRST CONGRESS ON 16 APRIL 1992.

ITS CONSTITUTION, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE FIRST CONGRESS, WAS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED BY THE SECOND CONGRESS OF THE GCTU 22 SEPTEMBER 1993, THE THIRD CONGRESS OF THE GCTU 18 SEPTEMBER 1997, AND THE FIFTH (EXTRAORDINARY) CONGRESS OF THE GCTU 26 MARCH 2004.

THE BASIC OBJECTIVES OF THE GCTU ARE:

- CO-ORDINATION OF ITS AFFILIATES' ACTIVITIES ON THE PROTECTION OF SOCIAL RIGHTS OF WORKERS, STUDENTS AND PENSIONERS;
  - ASSISTANCE IN THEIR PROTECTION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS AND GUARANTEES;
- AND
- ORGANISING TRADE UNION SOLIDARITY AND CO-ORDINATION OF ITS AFFILIATES' INTERNATIONAL POLICIES.

THE GCTU BUILDS ITS ACTIVITIES IN CONFORMITY WITH THE UNIVERSALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, WITH FULL RESPECT FOR ITS AFFILIATES' COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE AND THE EQUALITY OF THEIR RIGHTS AND DUTIES.  
THE GCTU AFFILIATES NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTRES OF ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, GEORGIA, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, MOLDOVA, RUSSIA, TAJIKISTAN AND UKRAINE, AND ALSO 28 INDUSTRIAL TRADE UNION INTERNATIONALS.

THE GCTU IS READY TO CO-OPERATE WITH ANY OTHER NATIONAL TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR AFFILIATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

THE CONFEDERATION ENJOYS OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE CIS AND EURASEC INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES, THE CIS COUNCIL OF HEADS OF STATE, THE CIS COUNCIL OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, THE CIS INTERSTATE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, ETC.

INTERNATIONALLY, IT IS IN CONSULTATIVE RELATIONS WITH THE ILO , THE UN DPI AND THE ECOSOC.

THE GCTU SUPREME BODIES ARE THE CONGRESS, CONVENED EVERY FIVE YEARS, AND, IN THE INTERVALS BETWEEN THE CONGRESSES, THE COUNCIL AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES IS EXERCISED BY THE GCTU AUDITING COMMISSION.

PRESIDENT OF THE GCTU IS MIKHAIL SHMAKOV,  
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE GCTU IS VLADIMIR SCHERBAKOV

## DEAR READERS

The GCTU information bulletin "Inform-Contact" is also distributed by E-mail. Apart from that, the English and French versions of our publication are available on our web site: [www.vkp.ru](http://www.vkp.ru)