

**Follow-Up to the UNI Europa Commerce Conference
Gdansk, Poland, 1 - 3 June 2015**

Dear Colleagues,

It was a real pleasure having so many of you at our European Conference in Gdansk at the beginning of June.

Your active participation and enthusiasm made our conference a real success. I was very pleased to count on the presence of 148 participants from 31 Unions in 23 different countries. We have welcomed 70 women's delegates and so, hit the target of 40% women representation in the conference with a figure of 47.6 %. The newly elected Steering Committee will have a women's representation of 48 %.

I would like to thank again our host Solidarnosc for their outstanding job and commitment which culminated in the presence of the historical trade union leader and former President Lech Walesa, a true symbol of the fight for independence and democratic unions.

“It is a human right for workers to join trade unions. We must fight for this right every day and not take it for granted that these rights have already been won” (J. Hannett)

Congratulations to John Hannett for his re-election as UNI Europa Commerce President. I look forward to working closely with him and the new European Committee.

I would like to particularly thank all of you that presented in the different sessions to share your very personal story on your involvement with the work of UNI Europa Commerce. A brief report of the conference will be circulated soon.

The discussions at the conference made it very clear that only together we will be able to take on the challenges of a new world of work in Commerce and to make a difference in our common goal to improve working conditions in Europe for commerce workers and to fight precarious work. Our newly adopted Action Plan provides us with the tools to do so.

Together we will continue to make the voice of commerce workers heard in our lobbying activities within the EU Institutions. We will continue to develop constructive relations with EuroCommerce in the framework of the European Social Dialogue by implementing a work programme that is relevant for you at the national level. We will continue to support strategic organising campaigns in order to grow stronger unions and increase membership in the sector. We will implement

the new procedure on the establishment of EWCs in the Commerce sector by strengthening the trade union presence and coordination and the link with the existing and future trade union alliances. We will support UNI Europa Commerce affiliates in protecting work-free Sunday and enhance good practices in social dialogue and collective bargaining to safeguard employees' work-life balance.

Meeting documents and Conference Webpage

All documents and statements, including the final versions of the Resolutions as adopted by the conference as well as the list of participants and the names of the new European Committee members have been made available online.

To download the documents, please go here:

<http://www.uniglobalunion.org/meetings/uni-europa-commerce-conference>

The Username is: unimember - The Password is engage

A selection of the best pictures taken at the conference is also available for download:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/uniglobalunion/sets/72157654596347655>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/uniglobalunion/sets/72157654026122209>

You can watch videos of the conference at the following YouTube link:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIDPd8ziHzrtHs7aDndNwNcjQHT_0xfZ

Implementation of the Action Plan

The conference adopted an ambitious Action Plan for the period 2015-2019. In the four years to come and together with the Europa Steering Committee, I will do my best to ensure that it is implemented, its progress assessed on a regular basis and its content adapted to reflect the evolution of the sector.

However, a successful implementation of the Action Plan strongly relies on your cooperation and support. Therefore, I will organise a workshop on 21 October in Brussels for all interested affiliates, in order to discuss how to best deliver on the different action points. An official invitation will be sent to you soon. In the meantime, I kindly ask you to mark the date in your calendar. With a view to making this as much as possible a collective process, I would warmly encourage you to send me your suggestions and ideas in this respect.

Once again I thank you for your support and cooperation and I am looking forward to working with you in the future

Yours sincerely,



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