

Mr. President
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of Polish workers' delegation I would like to congratulate you Mr. President your election to such eminent post. Meeting of the European part of the ILO in Budapest has a symbolic meaning. One fourth of the European countries have been joined to the EU with enormous expectation on improvement of their economies and essential decreasing of unemployment. However less than one year has been passed from the enlargement of the EU and it is too early to estimate this process correctly, it is our duty, duty of trade unions to speak out all our hesitations and warnings at each stage.

Speaking today to such august assembly I have a particular honor and satisfaction because this year we celebrate 25th anniversary of birth of the Trade Union "Solidarity". I'm absolutely sure that due to the bravery, dedication, solidarity and determination of millions of the Polish workers I have this exceptional opportunity to speak to you here and now.

Mr. President
I'm extremely sorry that I'm not able to be in line with my Minister.

Just a few days ago in Warsaw high level conference, with the participation of the vice-prime minister, have been held on the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). In the course of debate there wasn't place for any trade union and nobody even have mentioned about the role of trade unions in this problem.

The second event I want to note it was the visit of the famous manager Jack Welch to Poland in January. In his message to Polish businessman he stated: *You participate in the global economic war. Your enterprises should have ready strategies for a war time.* I'm underlining war not competition. In other place he had encouraged Polish managers as well to motivate workers to be more efficient as to not hesitate to fire the weakest workers.

Confronting these two events with the tendencies recorded in Poland we the Polish workers are enormously worried about future of the social dialog. We urge the ILO to monitor carefully developments particularly in the new EU countries.

I would like to present some facts that justify our worries:

1. Unemployment in Poland after accession didn't decrease and in the EU is continuously increasing. What's more predicted massive labour migration from Poland to the "old" EU countries isn't the case.
2. The Lisbon Strategy has failed up to now and its future seems to be gloomy.
3. Common antiunion campaign resulting in decreasing unionization ratio is a everyday practice. Workers are really afraid to affiliate to any trade union in order to not lose their jobs.
4. No payment due salaries is massively spread. In the Annual report of the State Labour Inspection published in 2004, payment irregularities in 2001-2003 were recorded in 62%,

68% and 62% (respectively) of enterprises under investigation. This irregularities expressed in terms of number of affected workers are 43%, 48.7% and 47.7% respectively.

5. Tripartism has formal and facade character.

6. The enterprise and sector agreements concerning guarantee of employment reached in a few places were hardly attacked by authorities and were called as immoral.

7. The declarations and commitments undertaken during the visit of DG to Poland in October 2004, have no reflections in the practice.

8. The workers of health service sector started to develop hunger protest against legalization of nonpayment of the part of their salaries. I would like to remind that Poland has been ratified Con. Nr 95. Today is the 5th day of protest.

9. More and more perpetuating abuses and violations of basic workers' rights, even human rights were recorded. (For example in multinationals as Biedronka or Frito-Lay.)

10. The famous and extremely important report of the World Commission on Social Dimension of Globalization *A Fair Globalization* is in Poland not published, not known and not discussed.

We do not claim, we are warning. This is not the right way. Social peace, equity and welfare especially in the time of global competition can be reached only with common tripartite efforts of the government, employers and workers organizations.

Finally I would like to recall main thesis of the Philadelphia Declaration

- (a) labour is not a commodity;
- (b) freedom of expression and of association are essential to sustained progress;
- (c) poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere;
- (d) the war against want requires to be carried on with unrelenting vigor within each nation, and by continuous and concerted international effort in which the representatives of workers and employers, enjoying equal status with those of governments, join with them in free discussion and democratic decision with a view to the promotion of the common welfare.

I believe that they are still valid, in Europe too, in EU too.

Thank you.