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Effects of the Financial Crisis on Local Public Services

**01-02-03.12.2011
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The seminar is chiefly being financed
by European Union funds



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European Federation of
Employees in Public Services



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European Commission



European Centre for Workers' Questions

Greetings by the Secretary General of EUROFEDOP



Dear Colleagues,

Local public services are facing a difficult period. Not only there are essential reforms which have to be implemented in those services, the international financial crisis is also hitting Europe and this risks to have consequences for the public services in general and the workers of those public services in particular. One very important department of those public services are the local public services. The personnel of local administrations, fire brigades, police, waste collection, water distribution, etc. have daily contacts with the citizens and, therefore, we believe governments should think twice before they take measures which have a serious impact on the delivery of local public services. The quality of services should be guaranteed and this is only possible if there is a sufficient number of staff to deliver those services.

The problems the personnel of local administrations are facing, are also being dealt with at European sectoral level. Together with the employers and the European Commission, trade unions from European countries participate in a social dialogue committee where those problems are discussed and best practices are worked out.

Today, in view of the financial crisis which is hitting all sectors, we believe that the moment is right for local public services to develop their own vision. The elements which are characteristic for good public services are continuity, neutrality and the delivery of an optimum service. These characteristics are put under pressure by today's financial crisis.

Therefore, we believe that it is important that the discussion at European level between workers, employers and European Commission in the social dialogue committee and its working parties should be continued.

One of our objectives at this seminar will be to examine the way in which today's crisis has an impact on the operation of local public services and the quality of those services for the public, the citizens. Moreover, it is our intention to discuss the consequences of today's crisis for the personnel of local administrations.

We will make an evaluation of employment in local public services, in general and specifically focussing on certain sectors such as water distribution and the health sector.

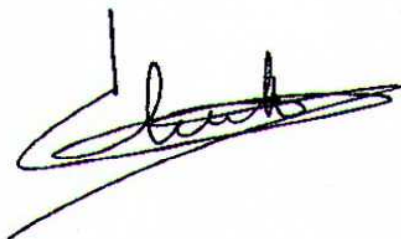
We will critically analyse the crisis management in local administrations and study its effects on employment and the provision of services to the citizen.

We believe that democracy has its basis in local administrations and will ask the question : how will civil society react if it sees how its local network risks to gradually fall apart ?

As a social organisation, we are also concerned with the possible effects of today's crisis on the relationship between workers and citizens. Will those relations be as solid as ever ?

By bringing together local trade union officials from European states, the information they will provide on the situation of social dialogue in their country can help their fellow delegates from other countries continue their involvement for the progress of social dialogue in their own country.

We will not limit ourselves to discussing the problems local administrations are facing from the trade union point of view. We invited the employers and the European Commission as well as representatives from other European institutions such as the Council of Europe to share with us their views. Hopefully, together we can clearly analyse the problems and indicate the road we should take for the benefit of local administrations and the personnel of those services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bert Van Caelenberg', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr. Bert Van Caelenberg

Efekti ekonomske krize na zaposlene u lokalnoj upravi

01-02-03. decembar 2011.godine Berlin, Nemačka

Uvodna reč Generalnog sekretara EROFEDOP-a

Poštovane kolege,

Zaposleni u lokalnoj upravi suočeni su sa teškim periodom. Ne samo da postoje bitne reforme koje treba sprovesti u službama javnog sektora, već svetska ekonomska kriza pogađa celu Evropu i takvo stanje se posledično odražava kako na ceo javni sektor uopšte, tako i naročito na zaposlene u lokalnoj upravi. Jedan veoma važan deo javnog sektora jeste lokalna uprava. Zaposleni u lokalnoj administraciji, vatrogasne službe, policija, komunalne službe, vodovodi, itd svakodnevno su u kontaktu sa građanima, pa s toga verujemo da vlade zemalja treba dva puta da razmisle pre nego što sprovedu mere koje imaju ozbiljan uticaj na pružanje javnih usluga. Kvalitet usluga mora biti garantovan, a njega je moguće održati jedino ukoliko postoji dovoljan broj zaposlenih koji pružaju te usluge.

Problemima sa kojima se suočava administracija u lokalnoj upravi bavi se i Evropa na nekoliko strukturalnih nivoa. Poslodavci zajedno sa Evropskom komisijom i Unijama Sindikata iz evropskih zemalja učestvuju u odborima za socijalni dijalog na kojima se raspravlja o tim problemima i gde se daju najbolji primeri iz prakse.

Danas, imajući u vidu da ekonomska kriza pogađa sve sektore, verujemo da je pravi trenutak za lokalne uprave da razviju svoje vizije. Ono što je karakteristično što čini dobar javni servis jeste kontinuitet, neutralnost i optimalni nivo rada. Ove osobine su pod pritiskom današnje ekonomske krize.

Zbog toga verujemo da je važno nastaviti sa diskusijom na odborima za socijalni dijalog na nivou Evrope između zaposlenih, poslodavaca i Evropske komisije.

Jedan od naših ciljeva na ovom seminaru će biti ispitivanje načina na koji današnja kriza vrši uticaj na rad javnih službi i kvalitet njihovih usluga za javnost, građane. Štaviše, naša je namera da raspravljamo o posledicama koje današnja kriza ostavlja na zaposlene u lokalnoj upravi.

Izvršićemo procenu zapošljavanja u službama lokalne uprave uopšte, ali naročito ćemo se fokusirati na određene sektore kao što su vodovod i sektor zdravstva.

Kritički ćemo analizirati krizni menadžment lokalne administracije i proučićemo njegove efekte na zaposlenost i pružanje usluga građanima.

Verujemo da je osnova demokratije u administraciji lokalne uprave i postavićemo pitanje: Kako će građansko društvo reagovati kada vidi kako se njegova lokalna mreža polako raspada?

Efekti ekonomske krize na zaposlene u lokalnoj upravi

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Kao društvena organizacija takođe smo zabrinuti zbog mogućih efekata današnje krize na odnos između zaposlenih i građana. Da li će njihov odnos ostati i dalje čvrst kao i do sada?

Spajajući na ovom mestu zvaničnike sindikata iz evropskih zemalja, podelićemo njihova iskustva i informacije o stanju na polju socijalnog dijaloga u njihovim zemljama, što može biti od koristi njihovim kolegama iz drugih zemalja u napretku socijalnog dijaloga u njihovim zemljama.

Nećemo se ograničiti na razmatranje problema lokalne uprave sa stanovišta sindikata. Pozvali smo poslodavce i Evropsku komisiju, kao i predstavnike drugih evropskih institucija, kao što su Savet Evrope, kako bi podelili sa nama svoje stavove. Nadamo se da ćemo zajedno moći jasnije da analiziramo probleme i utvrdimo put kojim treba krenuti za dobrobit lokalne administracije i zaposlenih njenim službama.

G. Bert Van Kalenberg