

INTERVENTION OF THE DELEGATION OF THE ELDERLY AND PENSIONERS OF THE TRADE UNION LAB IN THE REGIONAL EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF THE WFTU TUI OF P & R

Comrades of the TUI in Europe: We direct ourselves to this Assembly in the name of the Area of the Elderly and Pensioners of the trade union LAB whose sphere of action is the territory of Euskal Herria (Basque Country) and non-state nation located in the south-west of Europe, looking on to the Cantabrian Sea.

In our country the pensioners and retired people are now approximately 25% of the population. Towards this collective we are directing our demanding and mobilizing trade union action. A very precarious sector, given that 54% (364,705, women in their majority) receive miserable pensions below the recommendations of the European Social Charter.

For urgent reasons we are now fight for the complementarization of the lowest pensions to the European reference of a minimum pension (60% of the average salary of each country), in our case in the Basque Country, that minimum pension must be 1,080€-

We also fight for the creation of our own system of Protection and Social security in the Basque Country, with legislative capacity for the integral management about the management of the Pensions, public attention to dependency, health care... We also don't forget other demands like the struggle for equality between men and women, complete, integral and free health care.

Facing the immediate future, we show our disposition to collaborate with the TUI of Pensioners and Retirees to improve the conditions of life of the pensioners. Our specific commitment in this sphere of action will be collaboration as far as our capacities go, like the elaboration of diagnostics, joint mobilizations or other tasks which derive from the agreements that are made in this Assembly in tasks compatible with the principles of our trade union.

From the Basque Country a cordial salute to all of the organizations who participate in this Assembly, especially those as in our case, don't have their own state and fight to achieve a Social Europe of the sovereign and free Peoples.

And to end, a remembrance and a demand:

The remembrance for the figure of our comrade Igor Urrutikoetxea, former general secretary of International Relations of LAB, who helped us take the steps so that the area of pensioners of our trade union collaborate in in the TUI of Pensioners and Retirees of the WFTU.

At the same time Igor had been the Secretary General of the TUI – MM of the World Federation of Trade Unions. In October of 2013 organized by the C.T.B. Of Brazil their took place in Rio de Janeiro the II World Congress of the before mentioned TUI – MM, to which Igor assisted as the Secretary of this. In the context of this Congress, in his full youth (he was only 38 years old) Igor died, after suffering a fatal accident from which he couldn't recover.

And as far as the demand, we want before this Assembly, to expressly denounce the unjust imprisonment for political reasons in the Spanish state, who for 12 years was the general secretary of our trade union, Rafa Diaz Usabiaga, and we ask for his immediate release.

It was when Rafa Diaz was General Secretary of LAB that our trade union joined the WFTU.

Health and Salutations.

Copenhagen, 20 July 2016.