



EPSU General Circular N°10 (2022)

To all EPSU affiliates

To all EPSU Statutory Committees

REF. JWG/RP/NS/mb

Contact person: Richard Pond/Nadja Salson

Brussels, 1 July 2022

**Conference Invitation
Defending and strengthening trade union rights in public services**

Holiday Inn, Skopje, North Macedonia, 22 September 2022

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to invite you to participate in the final conference of our project on trade union rights that we have been coordinating with EuroCOP and EUROMIL, the European trade union federations for police and military personnel.

This will be an in-person conference in Skopje, North Macedonia and funding from the European Commission means that we can provide financial support for travel and accommodation costs for participants (see below for details).

This conference will provide an opportunity to debate the continuing challenges facing public service trade unions in asserting their rights to organise, negotiate and take collective action. The agenda (see attached for details) includes:

- An overview of trade union rights in the public services provided by a team of academics led by Alexander de Becker of the University of Ghent.
- Discussion of the role of the European Social Committee of the Council of Europe and how it can help address limitations on public service trade unions – with contributions from Henrik Christensen, Deputy Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe and Stefan Clauwaert, Senior Advisor on Human and Labour Rights at the ETUC.
- A panel discussion around EU social legislation and social dialogue and how it can support national level collective bargaining and social dialogue and the right to organise, featuring ETUC Deputy General Secretary Esther Lynch, representatives of the European Commission, EPSU, EuroCOP and EUROMIL. A state of play with the transposition of the transparency and predictability of working conditions directive will be provided.
- Working group discussions on campaigns and initiatives to strengthen trade union rights in the public services.
- Final debate on a work plan on future European action by the three federations to defend and promote trade union rights in the public services.



With financial support from the European Commission

TIMING AND VENUE The conference will run from 9.00 to 17.00 on Thursday 22 September and will take place at the Holiday Inn, Filip Vtori Makedonski 5, Skopje, 1000.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION European Commission funding means that participants from all EU Member States plus the candidate countries of Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey can claim reimbursement for travel and accommodation costs up to a certain limit (please read carefully the [practical details document](#)). Additional funding from EPSU will also be available to help affiliates from Eastern Europe outside the EU who wish to participate ([see practical details](#)).

INTERPRETATION We are proposing to provide the following languages for active interpretation: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Hungarian, Romanian, BCSM and Greek. However, these will only be guaranteed if participants who need these languages register by 22 August.

DINNER A dinner will be organised on the 21st of September 2022. More information will follow.

REGISTRATION To register for the meeting, please follow this [link](#). Please log in first. **The deadline for registration is Monday 12 September 2022.**

I would encourage you to register as early as possible to ensure a room in the hotel, the provision of interpretation available and to help us plan the running of the conference and, in particular, the working groups.

Yours sincerely



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary

List of enclosures: Invitation letter and information for participants to be found at: <https://www.epsu.org/event/defending-and-strengthening-trade-union-rights-public-services-final-conference-22-september>

