

Young workers go head-to-head with young MEPs

Open hearing at the European Parliament: Report of Conor McDonald from CPSU Ireland

On Tuesday 14 October MEPs and young trade union activists came together at a seminar in Brussels to establish a concrete system for achieving the goals outlined in the European Parliament's Youth Resolution.

At present the critical situation of young workers threatens the homogeneity of the whole Eurozone. There is an urgent need to address the high levels of youth unemployment and prevent the damaging onset of long-term unemployment.

A combined response from all social partners has continually been recognized as best practice. Six European trade union federations, representing 30 million workers across Europe, have linked with MEPs from five of the main political groups to develop solutions necessary to combat the emergency.

EU institutions and employers must now consider the youth crisis at the top of their agenda. Failure to deliver the commitments required under the Youth Resolution, passed in July 2014, risks destabilizing the European project.

Obviously a move from the strategic planning and organizing stage into the process of enshrining the conditions of the resolution into law and developing a rights-based approach to youth employment is welcome. The MEPs in attendance have committed to ensuring the next European semester prioritizes production of both the social indicators and structural reforms necessary to combat youth unemployment, emigration and a low-paid precarious work environment.

In this instance the solutions have already been outlined and agreed upon at European level in the Youth Resolution but a job of work remains to convert these solutions into fact or law where necessary.