



Pan-European Structure

Education International – European Region

Round Table for member organisations from Central and Eastern Europe

Declaration

The EI member organisations from Central and Eastern Europe, representing four million teachers and other education workers, meeting in Sofia, from 14th to 16th September, 2006,

Reaffirming the Declaration adopted in 2005 in Belgrade by the CEE Round table

And

Recognising that the provision of a quality education service for all is the fundamental responsibility of governments and that therefore Education for all must be publicly funded and publicly regulated

Taking note of the increasing trend of governments to pass the responsibility for the provision of education services to private and commercial interests and of the increasing use of market oriented practices in public education

Demands that governments fund adequately the provision of high quality education services for all citizens and engage in a dialogue with the representatives of teachers and others involved in the provision of the such services about their effective implementation;

Declares that the provision of a quality education service requires that those delivering the service are well rewarded for the work that they do and enabled to undertake the work under the best possible conditions; their professional skills and knowledge should be recognised and respected in the process of developing and implementing the services

Denounces that in higher education ongoing privatisation and commercialisation lead to widespread disregard of the rights traditionally pertinent to higher education teaching personnel including the right to academic freedom

Recognises the importance of independent well organised and effective teachers trade unions in helping to maintain the stability and democratic values of society and in that context calls on Education International to support the development of strong representatives education unions through the provision of training for capacity building and other relevant services

Supports the claims of their colleagues in Romania in their efforts for better salaries and working conditions as stipulated in the European Social Charter

Supports their colleagues in SONK in Macedonia in their ongoing efforts to maintain their role in representing their members and the interests of the education service

Emphasises that each hour worked and each task undertaken must be paid for in an adequate manner and **supports** each union and, especially, the unions in Hungary and other CEE countries, which has to pursue such issues.

Declares its support for the theme of the fifth EI World Congress “**Educators joining together for quality education and social justice**” and recommends that all EI member organisations from Central and Eastern Europe participate fully in the Congress