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Walter DRESSCHER
Paula ENGWALL
Andreas KELLER
Galina MERKULOVA
Branimir STRUKELJ



5, Bd du Roi Albert II, 9th
1210 Brussels, Belgium
Tel +32 2 224 06 91/92
Fax +32 2 224 06 94
secretariat@csee-etuice.org
<http://www.csee-etuice.org>

European Director
Martin RØMER

Treasurer
Mike JENNINGS

ETUCE

European Trade Union Committee for Education EI European Region

Dr. Aleksandar Vucic
Prime Minister of the Government
of the Republic of Serbia
predsednikvlade@gov.rs

Dr. Srdjan Verbic
Minister of Education, Science
and Technological Development
kabinet@mpn.gov.rs

Kori Udovicki
Vice President and
Minister for State Administration
and Local Governance
potpredsednik.kabinet@gov.rs

Dusan Vujovic
Minister of Finance
press@mfin.gov.rs

Brussels, 16 January 2016
Ref: MR/AKR/9766

Subject: Request for a meeting in Belgrade

Dear Sirs,

The ETUCE, the European Trade Union Committee for Education, is the European Region of Education International, the global umbrella organisation of teacher unions. It represents 132 teacher unions in Europe, i.e. more than 11 million teachers from all levels of the education sector (pre-primary, primary, secondary & higher education, vocational education & training) in 45 countries. The ETUCE is a social partner in education at EU level and a trade union federation of the ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation.

Particularly with a view to Serbia's role as a possible future EU member state, the developments in the education sector in the Republic of Serbia have always been both interesting and important for ETUCE to follow. Allow me to approach you about some challenges raised by ETUCE's Serbian affiliate, the Teacher Union of Serbia (TUS). TUS has reported for quite a long time on problems of weakening labour relations and unsatisfying working conditions in the education sector. We are of course concerned about the course of social dialogue in the education sector which is to our heart and we would like to sincerely contribute to support a possible positive solution to the problem as good as we can. However, we are very pleased to learn that after the very long period of time during which they teacher unions have unsuccessfully tried to offer a progressive social dialogue on all the open issues, tomorrow Prime Minister Vucic will meet with the teacher unions to talk about possible solutions to the current problems.

I would be pleased about an opportunity to meet with you, too, as soon as the social partners manage to launch a positive and real progress. I am convinced that we could have a positive meeting and help supporting the development of a continuous and efficient social dialogue in education which could help further to improve the co-operation. This is why I ask you kindly for an appointment soon after your successful negotiations.

Thank you in advance for your appreciated efforts. I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Rømer', with a stylized, cursive script.

Martin Rømer
European Director