

**Ankara 22 December 2023**

Thank you for the invitation to your conference. It's a pleasure to meet you: your work, your sacrifice is an example for all the trade unions all over the world!

The FLC CGIL thinks it is important at a time like this for our organization to renew our commitment to a global mobilization of education international for the enhancement of schools and all those who work in them.

The national, European and international context, which has been conditioned by austerity policies in the last fifteen years, left a sharp reduction in spending on education.

The right to education is under attack all over the world. The idea of profit as a measure of the economic choices of governments has led to the fundamental rights of citizens being pushed aside. The right to education is one of them.

Our goal is full accessibility - for all- to the education and training system, to knowledge, research and science, and culture. It is exactly - access or not access- to knowledge that can determine the greater polarization in the condition of labor or ability to emancipate oneself, to resist with some tools the productive transformations (digital and green), it is exactly through the development of education and training systems in inclusive or democratic terms that we can change the process of social, political and democratic disintegration that we see taking place all over the world.

We are coming out of a pandemic that has exposed deep gaps in access to rights, starting with fundamental ones, such as health or education. The capitalist economic model failed in the face of great emergencies and the extraordinary. An economic model that opened gaps and increased social and economic inequalities.

Moreover, at this stage at least in Italy we see a progressive process of privatization of the right to education. A temptation always presents in right-wing governments.

So, we need more investment in education and more investment in valuing teachers. The existence of the younger generations today is traversed (reverse) by processes and phenomena that can also take on shocking manifestations, in terms of violence and degradation.

And they question us as adult citizen women and men, as institutions, and as schools. It is evident the indispensable function of the education system for the civic and democratic formation of the younger generations. It is necessary the prevention of logics and behaviors of violence, of overpowering, of human and civil degradation, of xenophobia.

It is the important, the high function of our work.

It is the goal of a school put in a position to take the direction of educational interventions in the different territories. To build networks and educational pacts.

Put in a position, above all, to be truly inclusive and attractive.

A place in which to experience acceptance, respect, listening and appreciation of diversity, experience solidarity, co-construct knowledge and learning processes, share the pleasure of discovery, learn to participate, be aware of one's rights and duties.

At the end , there are important challenges concerning the transitions that are going on in the world: green and digital reconversion, artificial intelligence, and therefore the need to reconstruct in the complexity of transition processes, and in transition processes in complex, articulated societies, the capacity for representation and the recomposition of labor starting with the possibility in the first place of reading ourselves, by those we represent, as a class and therefore regaining the cultural and political hegemonic function.

For this reason, as FLC CGIL we strongly support the International Educational campaign, Go public! Fund education! and the ETUCE Campaign #MakeTeachingAttractive. We, together, ask to all governments and the international community to increase public funding for the quality of the teaching profession and

all education staff. These are claims present within the CGIL general strike of last November in Italy. Also, on 12 December there was in Brussels the ETUC's demonstration "On the road for a fair deal for workers" supported by the entire European trade union movement, the continental mobilization that the CGIL proposed at the Berlin Congress.

However, I believe it is essential that education unions can carry out joint actions to demand these policies, starting with the global campaign of Education International.

FLC CGIL considers the international trade union path to be central because there is an increasing connection of the political choices made by national governments. Our commitment is aimed at a collective mobilization, a common commitment that can really change the present and above all the future, always against all the fascism, together. Long life to FLC CGIL! Long life to Egitim Sen! Long life to Education International!