

## THE REPORT TO BE ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF PENSIONERS AND RETIREES´ TUI

To be discussed at our TUI ´SECOND CONGRESS

### PRESENTING

#### PREVIOUS NOTES -

1) The present report is written with some months in advance in order to facilitate a few important matters: a) give the translators the much needed time to carry on with their work (this work is fundamental for our collective functioning and deserves time, besides gratitude) aimed to the release of this report in 4 languages (Spanish, French, English and Greek); b) as to give the 24 members of our world management a 30 days period for them to make their contributions, with which we will approve the text that will be made public and will serve for the broad pre-conference debate to be held in all the organizations of Pensioners and Retirees that will attend to our Second Congress; c) furthermore, the comrades mentioned in the report (responsible for a secretariat or commission, and the coordinators) will have two months to write the documents that will convene to complete this report, and distribute them in time.

2) So that each member of our TUI can contribute with their opinions in this Second Congress, with knowledge of all the data to be considered. With this idea in mind, I ask to all of them to read again the documents approved in the First Congress. Those are available in several languages on our official website: [www.pensionistas.info/web/en/node/83](http://www.pensionistas.info/web/en/node/83). These documents are still valid from the conceptual point of view, and we will not repeat them.

3) The accountability documents issued by the Secretary General should also be reviewed, in no. 14 different copies of COMMUNICATION, which are also on the web: [http://www.pensionistas.info/web/en/node / 230](http://www.pensionistas.info/web/en/node/230)

4) In the forthcoming Second Congress we are not going to discuss statutory issues. We already did it in our First Congress and, since they have not appeared, in any organization affiliated to our TUI,

requests to propose any modification, we will leave it as they are for the Third or another future Congress, when the necessity and usefulness of doing may appear.

5) Any contributions to this report, whatever complements, criticisms, amendments, suggestions or others, will be made known to all the congressperson. Even those that arrive early enough will be distributed by email to make it easier the collective reflection that every good congress must carry out.

## **ORGANIZING WORLDWIDE PENSIONERS AND RETIREES AGAINST CAPITALIST MEASURES**

Comrades,

The fulfillment of the 5 years that the Statutes of our TUI approved in the Founding Congress (Barcelona, February 2014), is coming to its natural end, giving its conclusion to the period between congresses.

The time has come to take stock of the collective work done during this period and it's time also to make the decisions that will improve our ability to reach the main goal of our existence, a DIGNIFIED LIFE for all elderly people, pensioners and retirees, of the planet.

Later I will remember what our definition of a "dignified life" is. Alongside, I will point out that the age at which a worker should pass to retired and pensioner, it will not be unique on the planet if long as there are the inequalities that capitalism creates and prolongs everywhere.

### **OUR BRIEF HISTORY. -**

Let me first review our brief history within the WFTU.

It was a success of the Spanish delegation at the 16th Congress of the WFTU (Athens, April 2011) to propose the creation of a TUI of Pensioners and Retirees in the WFTU.

We must also thank George Mavrikos for incorporating the previous proposal to the conclusions of the 16th Congress (after having listened to the opinions of the Pensioners and Retirees attending the said Congress).

Afterwards, the process of applying to this congress agreement of the WFTU began; a period which we already analyzed in the documents approved in our Barcelona Congress - documents to which I refer so as not to extend this report unnecessarily. You can consult them on the web of our TUI ([www.pensionistas.info/web/en/node/83](http://www.pensionistas.info/web/en/node/83)), where (thanks to the great and very important work of the militant and volunteer translators that we have had) they appear in several languages.

We managed to celebrate the First Congress of our TUI with the participation of a hundred delegates from the 5 continents, and we elected some management teams with a total of 24 members.

In this way we accomplished what was intended in the Convocation Letter of the First Congress: "IT WILL BE USEFUL FOR THE WORKING CLASS TO MAKE ANY EFFORT TO UNITE THE PENSIONERS OF THE WHOLE PLANET".

Then we have successfully made 5 Regional Conferences: that of America in Quito, Ecuador, on 30-9-15; that of Europe in Denmark on 20-7-16; the one in Africa in Dakar, Senegal, on 16-11-16; that of Asia in Nepal on 3-12-16; and that of the Arab Countries, in Tunis, on October 26-10-17.

Having taking experiences from this important collective work, we have to confirm that it was not easy to carry out the aforementioned 5 conferences, because: 1) we did not have files (which we are now starting to have) of the organizational reality of Pensioners and Retirees in the very diverse countries of the 5 continents; 2) we did not have the contacts we now have (but they are still insufficient); 3) we did not know in detail the reality of the struggles in each place and country; 4) nor did we have any specific information regarding Pensioners and Retirees' claims; etc.

For that reason, in the First Congress we created the Technical and Research Commission, of which we will make a balance based on the document that the comrades that compose it (elected in the First Congress) must present to us. Anyway, at this point I may recognize that it has been a insufficient work. We must analyze the real

difficulties that these comrades have had to work because: 1) we have not had the financial resources to call a personal meeting with all of them, 2) the languages that their members know have been a real barrier, and 3) the designed work plan did not go beyond being a plan or proposal, because it has never been implemented.

Reviewing all we have learned from the 5 Regional Conferences already held, I propose that we draw the following conclusions:

1) We must provide ourselves with good files in which class-conscious Pensioners and Retirees organizations appear ordered country by country. (This task should be performed by Organization Secretariat with the contributions to be added by Coordinators).

2) We must involve the Regional Offices of the WFTU in our organizational work. Good part of them of recent creation that almost did not help in the preparation of the 5 Conferences. (We know that the central direction of the WFTU will help us to improve the exchanges between TUI and Regional Offices. For that reason, to take a first step in this sense, we have invited to this Second Congress a representative of each of them.

3) We must ensure that those who attend our meetings are, logically by the age of the Pensioners and Retirees, veterans and expert union leaders, but also must be willing to devote time to the tasks of our TUI. It is not enough that they attend our international meetings if afterwards they do not have time to take on the tasks that collectively, by decision of each Conference, we have asked them to assume. (This reality and difficulty have forced us to make changes in some management teams). It is necessary to relax the requirements to facilitate the incorporation of younger cadres and, above all, of women who, on the one hand, because of the inequality to which they have been subjected, do not, in general, achieve that experience and experience in the leadership, but, on the other hand, they are the repositories of the experience of patriarchal oppression. This makes them irreplaceable in the direction of the anti-patriarchal and class struggle

4) We urgently must find methods of collective work, for instance video conferences, for which the incorporation of younger cadres will facilitate the possibility of meetings and collective reflections, without the great costs involved by personal meetings (both in time and most of all in money).

5) We must get accustomed to the use of brief documents that reasonably include the work plans corresponding to each management team.

Thanks to the 5 mentioned and analyzed Conferences we have appointed a leading team in each of these continents or regions, although it is not yet parity, and it will cost us that it is.

We still don't have important results coming from these teams. In the reports that the Regional Coordinators, have to present to us (reflecting the debate of the team that each one coordinates) we will see and analyze, in this Second Congress, how to improve our work in each territorial reality.

All done with very few economic resources, given that even the vast majority of organizations participating in the TUI have not contributed their annual share (they have only paid at least one quota, 9 organizations: 7 in Europe, one in America, and one of Asia). Later I will return on this subject.

Already mentioned data covers a lapse of time till December 20017.

Given that our struggle is global, against the decisions of the IMF<sup>1</sup>, applied by all capitalist governments, we have needed and need to confront them by practicing proletarian internationalism<sup>2</sup>.

We were able to hold two first World Wrestling Days, around October 1, 2,016 and 2,017, with the best result in the second round.

We have already sent the balance of both days and it is not appropriate here to repeat it and to extend ourselves in it.

While I write the present report, we are preparing the third of these Days, that of October 1, 2.018. It will be at the sessions of the Second Congress when we will have to make a global reflection on these calls.

In preparing this congressional reflection it is important to remind the several doubts aroused before convening the first of these World Struggle Days<sup>3</sup>.

The WFTU itself has, in the recent period, few experiences of World Struggle Days apart from those specifically related to issues such as the rights of working women<sup>4</sup>, or the annual struggle to celebrate the anniversaries of the WFTU.

The first two World Struggle Days, 1-10-2016 and 1-10-2017, are the only ones already celebrated before writing this report. Reviewing the documents in which we valued the results of the first two days we found that:

a) We had in all cases a guidance document of the objectives of the Conference (I thank the Technical and Research Commission, alongside with the PJP of PAME, the initial drafting of these documents, and the preparation of the annual poster).

b) It cost us to send the proposals to all the countries and organizations that could have participated (due to the aforementioned problem of the files of our organization and the difficulties of translation into more languages).

c) It was not always possible to carry on the action on the same day, to adapt it to the several realities of struggle concerning each trade union or organization of Pensioners and Retirees, plus the reality of each country. But basically, being close dates (which did not coincide) gave the level of global response with which we need to give an answer to the measures taken by capitalism against Pensioners and Retirees.

d) We lacked a better compilation of the results of the actions previously carried out (pictures, documents, videos, etc.).

In any case, and despite the obvious shortcomings, of which we are learning, we must say that on **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 will go down in history as the first time there was a global action of Pensioners and Retirees in the five continents.**

This is already a patrimony of the WFTU, of our TUI and of our collective work. It was and still is necessary the world organization, with class conscious positions, of Pensioners and Retirees of the whole world.

## **THE REALITY IN WHICH WE WORK**

I take it for granted that we have a general agreement regarding the analysis of the political-economic-union reality in which we live on Planet Earth today. The agreements of the 17th Congress of the WFTU (Durban, October 2016) serve as a reference. In short, we are battling against a capital-imperialism that knows that it is in a systemic and structural crisis (recognized a few days ago in Davos by the greatest enemies of the world working class). Therefore, and because of the fear that the big bourgeoisie has that capitalism disappears and socialism is implanted in the whole planet (which is what will end up happening sooner rather than later), even some of

the richest people in the world ask that money be dedicated<sup>5</sup> to social services (citing pensions among the most urgent issues).

In Europe, the European Commission, made up of members not democratically elected, but appointed by governments, on the margins of the elected European Parliament, has set clear targets for pensions: lower pensions, increasing the retirement age. Greece was the first country to implement these objectives, under the influence of the "troika", with the complicity of the "left" government, but the other countries rush to comply with the "recommendations" of the Commission. and to accelerate the counter-reforms already started for years.

Thus, in France, where the employers never could accept that the amounts dedicated to social protection, and particularly to retirement pensions, escape them (due to the application of the program of the National Council of the Resistance, since 1945), the attacks against what is called the "French social model" have multiplied over the years. Today, under the pretext of equity, equal treatment and simplification, the government plans the destruction of the delivery system pension, based on intergenerational solidarity, and replaces it with a system based on the Swedish model, which has already proved its worth. Dangerousness. In the short term, the retirement age can reach up to 67 or even 70 years, a drastic reduction in the amount of pensions, except for people who have had resources to capitalize.

The result, even right-wing analysts admit, is a new increase in poverty among retirees, a lower life expectancy, or even a shorter life due to lack of means to cure themselves; but satisfaction for banks, insurance and shareholders!

Facing this reality, that is to say: facing an enemy internationally organized, we still see how Pensioners and Retirees are fighting from isolated positions depending of specific realities of each country than from collective and international positions.

For this reason, our First Congress meant a very important step for Pensioners and Retirees. We will continue in this line of confrontation with the proposals of capitalism, proposals lead by the IMF (International Monetary Fund).

As a summary of what was approved in our First Congress, we remember that we agreed to defend the right to retirement<sup>6</sup> internationally, with a public pension that allows us to live with dignity, and that we decided to create management bodies of our TUI that would be able to carry out this goal.



We knew then, and we know today, that the right to retirement is a very important achievement of the working class that began more than a hundred years ago, but that is consolidated in the already centennial Bolshevik Revolution, victorious in October 1917 in Czarist Russia.

One of the first measures adopted by Lenin, at the head of the USSR and the soviets, was to universalize this human right to retirement, which lasted in the countries that built socialism until the capitalist reaction managed to stop the progress towards consolidation of socialism and communism. Today the citizens of these countries, who have returned to capitalist exploitation, complain that they have not been able to defend the historic gains that they enjoyed as a working class.

The reality of the broad rights of the working class, which the victory of socialism made possible, were extended to many capitalist countries, especially those with a better organization of the working class; in general terms to all the more industrialized countries. With this, the right to public pensions was extended and consolidated<sup>7</sup> from a certain age, which varied according to the life expectancy of each area of the planet and the fighting capacity of its working class.

The WFTU, which was born in Paris in October 1945, was, as the coordinator and promoter of class unionism, the one organization that most helped to extend the rights of the proletariat<sup>8</sup>, especially the right to retirement.

At the same time, this right was not extended to all capitalist countries as a universal right that already existed in the socialist countries, since class unionism was persecuted in many states. Thus, as a summary, we can say that where this right was most consolidated was in Europe, then in America plus Australia, and to a lesser extent in Asia and Africa.

Pensioners and Retirees began to fight collectively from shortly after conquering this right. Class struggle has always been like the result of the confrontation of opposing interests between exploiters and exploited class. And so, it will be while we do not end with the existence of capitalism and the patriarchy that it defends.

For this reason, we have found that there are organizations of Pensioners and Retirees with a long history (decades, like that of PAME), and with many years of struggle (Argentina with more than 25 years of presence in the street, in front of its Parliament, every Wednesday, almost 2,500 consecutive weeks).



We must also appreciate very positively that the existence of class conscious organizations of Pensioners and Retirees has increased (whether or not trade unions, given the different history of struggle and legality of each country). That is why we welcome the Congress held in May 2,017 in Rome by the unions of the USB (affiliated to the WFTU). In addition, new organizations of P&R have been created in many countries, the last (at the moment) have been in Peru and Algeria.

In addition, organizations of Pensioners and Retirees that took years (before we created our TUI) existing and fighting in defence of the right demands of the P & R, have made contact with the TUI of the WFTU and have been affiliated with it or are discussing internally the convenience of doing it, as is the case of the COBAP of Brazil that has more than 1 million 100 thousand affiliates.

There are less veteran organizations, but no less strong and combative, as is the case in Chile of the **NO más AFP** (No more AFP) movement, which has taken to the streets, on several occasions to more than one million Chileans who say enough to the private system (actually of theft) of pensions put into operation (with the support of the ICFTU, current CSI, the yellow unions) by the fascist dictator General Pinochet.

Although, at the present moment we are not coordinated with all the Pensioners and Retirees organizations that defend this group from class conscious positions, we must try to have as many exchanges as possible to improve the effectiveness of our fight against the common world enemy, capitalism and patriarchy<sup>9</sup>. For this precisely this Second Congress, like all of those celebrated by the WFTU, will be a democratic, participatory and open Congress to all organizations of Pensioners and Retirees from class positions that wish to participate, even as observers.

On the other hand, we have supported all the fair struggles of Pensioners and Retirees in many countries of the 5 continents, such as those of Argentina (every Wednesday for 25 years), of Chile against the AFPs (Private Pensions created by Pinochet with the support from the ICFTU, today CSI), from Greece, from Spain, from Portugal, from France, etc.

We have visited, as TUI of Pensioners and Retirees of the WFTU, other organizations of Pensioners and Retirees, as it is the case of Portugal, France and the Spanish state.

In this chapter dedicated to personal visits, the Coordinators will explain their difficulties which will be overcome with the common help of all our organizations. This can be attained by sometimes supplying

what could be obtained with travel or through internet exchanges of documents, claims and reports on the realities of each country and territory. We must devote further and better efforts to this written exchange.

We have supported documentarily (and with face gestures) the legal claims, before different governments, of the PYPs that were quoted to be entitled to a pension in one country and now reside in another (the fishermen are the most affected, but there are in all sectors of production and services).

We have sent messages of solidarity to various struggles of active workers to demonstrate that the working class is an indivisible whole in which the support of the P & J must reach the active workers and vice versa.

We have gone to the bureaucratic annual meetings of the ILO, so that our demands are known there, which we demand from the capitalist governments and businessmen from all over the world, and also so that they know our denunciation of the Social Pacts, between the aforementioned governments and entrepreneurs, signed by the yellow unions. Agreements have delayed retirement age in several countries, have substantially reduced what was collected as a pension and have only given benefits to the employers and the yellow unions when they manage the Private Pension Funds.

On our website you can read (and listen, in several languages - even if the translations are not always extremely accurate -) the interventions of our TUI before the ILO.

Finally, but also very important, we must point out in this summary of the reality on which we act, that there is an unacceptable gender gap (differences due to sex) in the issue of Pensioners and Retirees. On the one hand, women do not have the right to a pension in many countries, and in too many cases, because capitalist society pushes them to perform non-salaried domestic tasks, with which they reach retirement age and are not recognized right to collect a pension for their domestic work history. On the other hand, when the woman obtains the right to collect a public pension, the economic amount of the pension is much lower, on average, than that of men (For example, in Europe it is, on average, 40.2% lower. We should ask the Technical and Research Commission of our TUI to collect data from all continents).

In order to face this unacceptable reality of discrimination against women, we are going to propose that this Second Congress approve a Global Campaign against the gender gap, which I will finalize in the final proposals.

## **OUR WORLDWIDE STRUGGLE 'S AIMS**

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I do not copy here any of the documents we have used, in all the above, but I summarize the fundamental of our demands: "LONG LIFE WITH DIGNITY FOR THE P&R", that is life with: 1) drinking water at home; 2) sufficient healthy food; 3) habitable housing; 4) Health, Culture, Leisure and public transport, free and quality; 5) Right to collect the pension in any country on the planet; and 6) Contribution of the state for Social Security, including the Pension, for any person of working age to which the capitalist state is not able to provide him with a correct paid job.

To these general objectives we will have to add the partial and specific targets that are agreed, region by region, or continent by continent, based on the realities of each place, and based on our own histories of struggle.

For instance, in more than one territorial area the first claim must be the right to collect a public pension that allows a dignified living. It must be a right recognized by the Constitution of each country. In many places, only workers linked to some of the sectors of production or services (usually those linked to the largest companies and those corresponding to the civil service) are entitled to a pension.

## **DIFFICULTIES TO BE OVERCOME THROUGH COLLECTIVE WORK**

We could say, from the above, that, for the youth of our organization, everything has been success, but we would be deceived.

Our main mistake or rather, difficulty, which we must overcome, has been not to work collectively, not giving enough importance to the internationalist struggle of Pensioners and Retirees, not to worry beyond the struggles in each of our countries. Therefore, among other reasons, there have been no contributions to our TUI, except for the 9 exceptions mentioned.

None of the Secretariats created in the First Congress, except Finance, has acted. Neither work plans (there was one of Organization that was left in project), nor documents, nor contacts of other realities beyond the own country where the responsible person resides.

It is also true that the comrades who, exercising their responsibility, have asked for answers to the organizations that, country by country,

form part of our TUI, have only obtained silence as answers. The Secretary of Finance has repeatedly complained about this.

Neither of the two Commissions that we created in the First Congress have worked, neither the Technique and Research, nor the Control of Finance. Not even their respective members have established contact with each other, and the two comrades who direct them have not proposed a collective Work Plan for each of them. Only the Technical and Research Commission has drafted a guidance document of their work, which has not managed to materialize in results. The Finance Control Commission sent a document that has not had continuity.

I do not think we should entertain ourselves in listening to the motivations, or excuses, that surely lie behind each comrade who assumed responsibilities and then did not execute them.

Our limited time, in today's meeting, must be devoted to planning the best way to correct this negative reality.

And for this the fundamental thing is to assume the importance of our union work of class with the P & R of the 5 continents, always based on the general orientations of the WFTU.

Our enemy, imperialist capitalism, has taken note of our existence. The clear example of this is, not only in the aforementioned as said by one of the richest people on the planet (which, to delay the arrival of socialism, proposes to distribute more crumbs of the stolen with the exploitation of man by man) , if not that it is also in "the tug of the ears" (the warning) that the world employers have done to their lackeys, the leaders of the yellow unionism.

Until the creation of our TUI there was only, at the international level, a European organization of trade unions of Pensioners and Retirees. There was no existing, at the moment, a global organization, promoted by the yellow unions. That is why our TUI will continue this year (in June of 2018) being, for the fourth time in the centennial history of the ILO, the only voice of the Pensioners and Retirees around the world in the Annual Conference (it will be n° 107, the next month of June) of the ILO. I propose that once again I be the one to attend this event and take the floor before the Plenary. If you agree, I will send you, like all previous years, my 5-minute speech a few days before so that it reflects what we all consider that we should say as TUI of Pensioners and Retirees before the ILO:

The TUIC has never fought for the defence of pensions or pensioners. Pensioners did not enter the list of yellow union concerns. For this reason, a few years ago, the representative of the ITUC for all of Africa, and also delegate of the ILO, in Dakar, Mrs. Fatima, in a trade

union seminar in which she intervened with me, said publicly (with all cheekiness and impudence) that pensions were not necessary in Africa, that inter-family solidarity was the best solution for old age. With this argument base it is logical that the ITUC does not organize Pensioners and Retirees in Africa.

Nor does it organize them, in practice, on the other non-European continents. And at the European level, its meetings are more luxury tourism, veteran trade union leaders, than the preparation of union battles. In reality, never, the yellow unions have called for any struggle of the pensioners, neither at a European level nor at a world level.

But the capitalist leaders are alarmed by the growing organization of the P & J in class organizations, and our increasingly frequent outings protesting (for example, in Chile, several times more than one million people, in Greece many times dozens of thousands, as in Spain and France). The bourgeoisie is also concerned to see how our organizational activity grows, as Pensioners and Retirees' TUI of the WFTU, country by country. And more that will grow with our Second World Congress, which will be a great democratic Congress and open to all organizations of P & R with class positions. So, we will continue on the path of extension of our TUI.

Let's not forget that pensioners are almost 20% of the world population and almost 30% of the people with the right to vote, although this one (while we do not improve our activity as TUI) is lost by going to political organizations that do not fight against capitalism. We will have to influence so that the vote of the P & R goes to formations that impel the step to socialist societies, in which the exploitation, of some people by others, is definitely banned.

The bourgeois leaders have demanded the action of the yellow trade unionism, so that they do what they are told by those who finance it: deceive the working class. Always cheat more what seems to be your own side.

But they have taken the leaders of union reformism at a time when what they planned was the opposite, undermining Pensioners and Retirees organizations wherever they existed. For example, the case of Spain, where CCOO (as before UGT) decided in its last Congress to dissolve the Federation of Pensioners and Retirees to reincorporate them to the branches of production or services from which they came. At the same time, they reduced the operating costs of their bureaucratized structures.

Given this pressure from the capitalist leaders on the yellow trade unionism, modest demands (very limited and confusing, as befits union reformism) and actions (almost union theatre) have begun to appear to be promoted by the trade union yellows.

But what can be claimed against a measure of the corresponding government, if what the capitalist government is applying has previously been signed by the Union? That happens to the yellow unions in many countries, as it is the case in Spain, where CCOO and UGT in January of 2011 signed with the Social Democracy (that then governed) the delay of the age of retirement and the diminution of the received pension. The same can be said of the performance of union syndicalism in Greece, in France, etc.

And evidently the leaders of the yellow trade unionism will not publicly make a self-criticism (that would only be credible if they were transformed into class unions, something impossible today) recognizing that they have been the ones that have helped the setbacks of the conquests of the working class. We must explain that, and very clearly, the class unions. Only we can, and we must explain it.

We must remember that the right to life annuities from 60 years or less, able to allow a decent life (according to the 6 points mentioned above), ripped out the working class with many struggles, was now consolidated 100 years ago with the October Revolution of the Bolsheviks, and it spread throughout Europe and the other continents, thanks to the creation of the WFTU in 1945 and the struggles that it promoted as such.

First of all we have reasons and realities that allow us to be optimistic about the future of our TUI, if we work, if we leave behind the stage in which only the General Secretariat and the Presidency of the TUI have worked as a collective.

## **OUR ORGANIZATIONAL REALITY. -**

The several data that must be taken into account in our further debate should appear in the report to be issued by the Secretariat of Organization. As stated before, we still do not have this Secretariat functioning.

Comrade D. Gopalakrishnan, from India, assumed responsibility for this task. He made different work proposals and asked us to give him



the file with all the contacts he should use. We facilitated what we had, which was not much, and we asked him to start his task. We can find the rest of the explanations in the report that we have requested from Comrade D. Gopalakrishnan.

Because of the above-mentioned items and bearing in mind the need for the Second Congress to evaluate the fighting capacity of our TUI. Here I include the data of our organizational reality.

First of all it must be taken into account that our TUI has had a special creation, from top to bottom. As I explained before, it was born out of an agreement of the 16th Congress of the WFTU, followed by the world meeting (First Congress of our TUI), and then the 5 Regional Conferences.

At this stage we can say that organization is currently formed by:

1) Three world management teams: A) The Executive Council formed by 14 comrades from the 5 continents, chaired by comrade Dimos Koumpouris (in turn President of the Greek PAME Pensioners and Retirees). B) The Technical and Research Commission formed by 7 comrades from 4 continents, chaired by comrade Palmos Panagiotis (from Greece). C) The Financial Control Commission formed by 3 comrades from 3 continents, chaired by comrade Kostas Skarparis (General Secretary of the PEO PE in Cyprus). We convened a meeting of these management teams in Bahrain, which was correctly prepared but could not be carried out due to economic difficulties that made impossible the presence of more of four members out the 24 called – all of them members of the management team of our TUI. The report issued by Deputy Secretary General, comrade Jean Marie N'Guema of the CGT (Gabon), has helped in what he could, but his health (with many admissions to the hospital in the last two years) has seriously hindered his contributions.

2) Several personal meetings have been held in Athens (some taking trips necessary for other activities of the WFTU different from those of our TUI), but only three comrades have participated regularly: Dimos Koumpouris, Palmos Panagiotis and Quim Boix, with some sporadic presence of Kostas Skarparis.

3) Up to this moment the only internal procedure that has worked properly and on a regular basis, and the only one that has allowed a collective direction, has been the meetings (at first held through telephone conversations and afterwards by video conference) between the President and the Secretary General, to which comrade Palmos Panagiotis always joined.



4) Five Coordinators or coordination teams, one for each geographical area: a) Africa´s formed by comrades Lazare Kimankata, Vice-President of our TUI (of the TCC of the Democratic Republic of the Congo), and comrade Camara Mamadi (of the Republic of Guinea) that has given continuity to the work started by Comrade Mostapha Brouziyine (from Morocco) who was elected to this responsibility at the African Conference held in Dakar, but who unfortunately died very young (on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018) due to a fulminating cancer. b) America began with comrade Martha Hervás (from Ecuador), as Vice President who traveled to Colombia and Cuba to fulfill her duties (see her reports on our website, in the COMMUNICATIONS of the Sec. Gral.). Martha Hervás who had to resign for health reasons and was replaced by comrade Marcos Wolman (from Argentina), who is the current Vice President of our TUI in this continent. It is the only continent where two meetings have already been held of the regional-continental direction of our TUI and responsibilities have been distributed by zones. c) Asia, with comrade Mohan Bahadur (from Nepal), elected Vice President of Asia in our First Congress. The comrade has overcome an important heart operation and is recovering positively. d) Europe with Comrade Vladimir Kapuralin (from Croatia) as Vice President, who resigned from this responsibility for having to assume other tasks in his country. He was replaced by comrade Tony Donaghey (from Great Britain), and lately Comrade Cristos Kolovos (from Greece) has helped him. e) Arab countries with Comrade Abbas Abdul (from Bahrain) who was elected Vice-president in our First Congress but who did not carry out this activity (they only created the Pensioners and Retirees union in his country), nor participated in the Arab Countries Conference in Tunisia, for which Cossentini Abderraouf (from Tunisia) was elected as the Coordinator of this Region, and who was recently assisted by Comrade Haciba Oldache (from Algeria).

The reports that will be issued to this Second Congress by the Coordinating Comrades will provide us with all the details of the reality of our TUI concerning in each of the continents or regions, indicating the countries that participate in our TUI, those that have attended our meetings, those that have class conscious Pensioners and Retirees organizations, the struggles they carry out, etc.

Also in those reports, the Coordinating Comrades should reflect the experiences of the First Call for Regional Actions, scheduled for May of 2,018, and that won´t be able to analyze this report because it was drafted before that date.

## **SOME IMPORTANT DATA CONCERNING OUR FINANCES**

I don't need to deeply proceed on this chapter of my report, since all congressperson must, in addition to this one, receive two reports (one from the Secretary of Finance, and another from the Financial Control Commission) that will go deeper into analyzing the finances of our TUI.

I have already quoted the summary of this issue at the beginning of this report (referring to our activities in general terms):

All these efforts have been realized with very scarce financial resources while the great majority of the organizations adhered to our TUI haven't comply with their yearly responsibility attained to them. Only nine organizations have paid at least one of their fees: seven from Europe, one from America and one from Asia. I will be back to this issue later in this report.

This harsh reality, which means a clear breach of our statutory duties, must be corrected at once. We already analyzed it at the meeting held in Athens on June 13<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>. There we approved the call for this Second Congress as well as the following text (logically the text refers to the accounting of our TUI until December 31, 2017):

It must also be relegated to exceptionality (only understandable because it corresponds to the stage of setting up a new union structure, as is our TUI), which of 37 trips by our General Secretary, 30 (including attending this meeting in Athens) has been paid by him, with the help of his companion (in total, Sec. Gral and his partner, have paid more than € 7,000 corresponding to 20 trips that are included in the list distributed to those attending the meeting , plus € difficult to break down of 4 trips by private car to Geneva and 3 trips, which were tour packages, in which the Secretary General and his companion have toured the corresponding country, since the trip had been paid for plane: Cuba, Vietnam and Tunisia). The financial data, closed on December 31, 17-17, that will be another of the contributions to the meeting, prove it.

A self-assumed world organization must be able to cover the expenses of its leaders when they act as such. From this Second

Congress we should be aware that you are not an internationalist just to say it and repeat it many times, if not to practice it. Therefore, we must give all the importance to the existence of the TUI of Pensioners and Retirees as an international organization.

I am going to quote an instance, in which, as you can imagine, names and surnames could be cited (if not needed to do it). The fact has taken place in several countries today organized in our TUI. We have witnessed how there was money enough to travel expenses for international meetings (in any case always insufficient) while at the same time we have not received a single due fee from most of the countries whose leaders have been able to travel. Dedicating 20% of what is spent on trips to the payment of the due fees does not seem a disproportionate amount. Moreover, we have witnessed, unfortunately (due to visa problems not granted by our class enemy that will always seek to hinder our work), that organizations that had money to pay for an expensive intercontinental trip had no money to pay the fee for our TUI (despite the fact that the mentioned travel expenses weren't finally made).

Continuing with the finance issues, it is not correct that of the income after the First Congress (financed with € 13,000 almost entirely by the Pensioners and Retirees of the Spanish state), almost half (exactly € 10,913.97) have been provided again the CSU of Spanish Pensioners and Retirees, compared to € 12,556.00 contributed by the 8 remaining organizations that have paid their quotas (none, apart from the CSU of Pensioners and Retirees of the Spanish state, has paid the quotas for 4 years).

Step to detail the contributions: PAME (Greece) € 6,767.18; Jubiqué (Spain) € 2,100; PEO (Cyprus) € 1,500; BSNL (India) € 653.11; Trade Union Front of Class (France) € 400; AST (Spain) € 90; Labor Today (USA) € 35.71; a comrade from Croatia € 10; and the CSU of Pensioners and Retirees (Spanish state) the € 10,913.97 cited.

We really appreciate as very positive that countries such as Spain, Ecuador, Denmark, Senegal, Nepal, Tunisia, Brazil and Greece have made significant financial contributions to our TUI by hosting meetings of the management teams.

We also appreciate the contributions made by the aforementioned and other countries of the 5 continents, which have allowed the success of the 5 continental meetings by paying all travel expenses of its delegates. Meetings to be held by 5 regional management teams have been created, if yet to be completed.

I insist that the above data belong to the balance issued at the meeting held in Athens on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This balance reflects our finances as closed on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2.017. At the time of the Congress we will be able to provide more up-to-date information that I ask you to study carefully, trusting that it has improved with respect to everything said in the previous paragraphs.

## **PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES**

At our First Congress Comrade Alain Rodriguez (from France) was appointed as head of this Secretariat. He began his tasks asking for help and collaborations, presenting on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 a Work Plan that was released for its full application. Unfortunately, on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2.016, comrade Rodriguez resigned to his post alluding personal reasons that did not explain.

Therefore, as of the aforementioned date, all the propaganda activity of our TUI has been assumed almost entirely by the Secretary General, except in the documents and posters for the 3 World Struggle Days of October 1<sup>st</sup>, which were assumed by the Greek comrades of PAME.

Our TUI´s propaganda has been focused mainly at. 1) to spread the agreements reached at our First Congress; 2) to bring our voice everywhere (at the several WFTU´s meetings, by sending abundant emails to many countries, through the congratulations issued on the new year - that of the year 2018 was released in 20 different languages--, 3) using our TUI´s web that has played an important role: although still underused, the web provides all documents translated into 12 languages; 4) to be present in all the activities to which the unions adhered to the WFTU and its central management have invited us; and 5) to send greetings and solidarity documents (corresponding to our own union experience) to everywhere in the 5 continents.

A very important part of Propaganda's work has been our TUI´s web.

In the document COMMUNICATION n° 1 it was said verbatim:

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We already have the names of the organizations in charge of this item:

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Arabic, trade union ALBA (from Bahrein).

Castilian or Spanish, trade union CSU of Pensioners and Retirees (Spanish State).

Catalan, trade union COS (Spanish State)

Basque, trade union LAB (Spanish State)

Greek, trade union PAME (from Greece).

English, trade union AIBDPA (from India)

We request other unions to assume the up dated keeping of the documents placed in their web by adopting the language they use the most. Suggestions and offers, in this especial item, will be highly appreciated. At the moment, the languages to be assigned are French, Galician-Portuguese, Italian and Russian.

Then the FSC of France was assigned the part in French, the PEO of Cyprus the part in Greek, and to Croatia the part in Russian.

Anyway, we must recognize that these responsibilities have not been carried away, leaving the task to several computer friends located by the Secretary General.

#### **GENDER SECRETARIAT. -**

During our first Congress we decided to entrust the Italian union USB to assume this responsibility. After many months we were given the name of comrade Emiddia Papi, who was accepted as responsible for this task.

As far as we know, she never started the work assigned by our TUI. She did not even attend the European Conference held in Copenhagen in July 2016, because the USB union appointed another trade union comrade to represent them in that Conference.

While my stay in Rome, in May 2,017, to attend the First Congress of USB´s Pensioners and Retirees, I went back to insist on this matter (which I had already reiterated several times by e-mail). For the time being, any question on this item remains unanswered.

During the forthcoming Second Congress we must make the right choice for the comrade in charge of this Secretariat so that we can correctly promote the Global Campaign for GENDER EQUALITY IN PENSIONS. Claim whose credibility is linked to I work to do to achieve the equality in our structures, projects and speeches.

#### **SECRETARIAT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY. -**

We entrusted this Secretariat to Comrade Frank Goldsmith, from the USA. We knew that he had the capacity and experience to take care of this important task. His other activities as a leader of class unionism in the US, and especially his responsibility to represent the WFTU at the UN headquarters in New York, have prevented him from devoting time to this Secretariat that has been left without initiating your tasks.

#### **SECRETARIAT OF TRADE UNION TRAINING. -**

Comrade Fred Krausser, from Australia, was appointed as responsible. He attended the First Congress and demonstrated the willingness of his organization (the Maritime Union of Australia) to work for the success of our work as TUI.

During months, several interesting exchanges between the management of our TUI and the Australian trade union leadership took place. Even at the time of the convening of the European Conference of our TUI, the Australian trade unionists (along with those from Canada and the USA), proposed that they be invited even if they are not European, but because they have legal conditions of the pensions similar to European ones.

Without further explanations they told some time later that they will stop their collaboration with our TUI.

From then on we have not heard anything else from Pensioners and Retirees belonging to the Australian seamen sector.

That's why we can't present any balance of the work of this Secretariat.

#### **TASKS DEVELOPED BY THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT. -**

I believe those tasks developed by this Secretariat since our First Congress have been sufficiently explained through the 14 documents labeled as COMMUNICATION, which can be consulted, in 3 languages

(Spanish, French and English) on the web:  
<http://www.pensionistas.info/web/en/node/230>

I consider that the necessary explanations and accountability are properly stated in the above mentioned documents. .

## **PRESIDENCY OF OUR TUI**

Fulfilling his duties, Comrade Dimos Koumpouris will open the Second Congress with a speech in which he will be able to reflect his work balance for the last five years.

As far as I´m concerned, I want to say and say that it has been with the President of our TUI who I have been working the most and the best during the years since the First Congress. We have done through personal as well as virtual meetings (already mentioned before), which have allowed us to take the main agreements of our management tasks.

As a summary of this accountability regarding our TUI´ Secretariats elected at the First Congress, I think it is fair to point out that when creating our TUI the comrades did not know each other, nor did we have experience regarding what it would require (such as dedication, time and effort) each of the responsibilities.

Therefore, it is natural that we have encountered the difficulties and shortcomings that I have just described before.

As class unionism always does, we must learn from the difficulties for overcoming them.

This is our main aim, and it will remain during our Second Congress when, once the debate on the documents is over, new management teams will be chosen.

## **OBJECTIVES FOR THE 5 YEARS UNTIL OUR THIRD CONGRESS.**

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Comrades:

We celebrate the Congresses to comply with the statutory obligation, but fundamentally to learn from the experiences of struggle (both those culminated with victories and those that ended transitorily in defeats), to reflect on them and to improve our ability to conquer



rights that are justly demanded by working class. For this reason, any international meeting and much more a Congress, it is not intended as to make a trip (as do the yellow unions spending millions on union tourism), but for the reaching of new agreements that will help us move towards the end of the exploitation of the proletariat and the achievement of socialism.

We therefore consider the Congresses as an opportunity to explain and place work proposals that allow us to advance towards our objectives.

Therefore, I propose that during this Second Congress we approve the following objectives:

A) Strengthen our TUI, and thereby strengthen the WFTU, as instruments of our struggle, as a working class, to destroy capitalism and relegate it to a stage surpassed in the history of Humanity. Leaving capitalism as the real second slavery from which we will get rid illegalizing the exploitation of human being by others, as the slave trade and its very existence were outlawed in the past<sup>10</sup>.

B) In order to comply with the above, we must contact all Pensioners and Retirees organizations with anti-capitalist and class-conscious positions, whether or not they are unions, to invite them to join (as affiliates or as observers) to our TUI.

C) We must keep our coherence as TUI and fight with an internationalist vision, to confront our enemy that is organized worldwide, overcoming the inner difficulties linked to a struggle that must be waged beyond the borders of our respective countries.

D) We must appoint the best trade union and associative leaders of our class organizations of Pensioners and Retirees, country to country, to reinforce the international work, in order to advance the fighting capacity, and the consequent capacity of victory, of our TUI.

E) Strive for all the Fundamental Laws, also called Constitutions, of all countries, to recognize as a UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHT to collect, at least from the age of 60, a sufficient public pension to live with dignity (fulfilling the 6 points that from our point of view clearly define a dignified life for us). It will be the best way to remember that December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (so far signed but unfulfilled Declaration in all capitalist countries).

F) Comply with the statutory obligation and pay each year the dues and quotas assigned to all of us and our organizations.

G) Continue the World Struggle Days, at least once a year, around October 1st.

H) Carry on with the organization of Regional Struggle Days to be determined and scheduled in each Continent or Region, if possible in the spring.

I) Place greater strength to the country-to-country struggles of Pensioners and Retirees involving active workers, that is, future pensioners.

J) Establish clear claim lists, country by country, region by region, that are coherent with the general demands of Pensioners and Retirees (as an essential part of the working class) worldwide, which have been reflected in this report.

K) To approve the starting, with the help of the leadership of the WFTU and of the women's structure of our world federation, of a great Campaign for the Progress of Gender Equality in the issue of the rights of Pensioners and Retirees in the whole world. Preceded by an internal campaign in Pro for Gender Equality in our cadres, our structure, our projects and our speeches. The next point is very important for this.

L) Promote the understanding in all the structures of the WFTU that the struggle for the rights of Pensioners and Retirees must be developed in all stages of working life. Therefore, we will always seek to ensure that the union work of our TUI is well integrated with that carried out by all the other structures of the WFTU.

M) With all these items in mind, we propose to the central management of the WFTU to support the campaign by claiming that the capitalist states pay the contributions of all the dissalaried people who want a paid job and can't reach it, that is to say that they are unemployed (as a result of the bad human and economic management of these capitalist states). This is the only way to guarantee today's youth their future right to a decent public retirement pension.

N) Help the new Technical and Research Commission to have all the data it needs to perform a good job as such.

O) Prepare a global document that situates, from a class perspective, the reality of pensions today in the whole world. For this we must involve technicians and specialists from different countries.

P) Give proper and accurate answers to the surveys that on our website reflect data on the reality of pensions in each country,

updating them when appropriate. We must get on our website the data related to the maximum number of countries. See: <http://www.pensionistas.info/web/en/node/23>

Q) Complete the data on the history of union struggle of our leaders as TUI, both globally and at a regional or continental level. The union CVs (Curriculum Vitae) that are coming to us will be added to those already placed on our website. See in the different languages on the web that are cited later in this report.

R) Enlarge the translators and interpreters' team to increase the militant work of translating texts and improve the level of exchange of information. We must remember that triumphs, even if they take place in another country or continent, always help further victories in even distant places.

S) To appoint a person in charge of our website for each language as to give us a better chance to find – in several languages - the information that will help us improve our struggle and our victories.

T) Promote the use of the best technologies available, in order to improve our inner communications. For this reason, we approved to advance in the use of video conferences (or shared and simultaneous telephone calls from different countries, with the presence of the necessary interpreters) as an improvement of our meeting capacity to be implemented while at the same time we save financial resources otherwise devoted to travel expenses.

## **PROPOSALS FOR THE NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM OF THE TUI.-**

### **SOME CRITERIA TO PREPARE THE CANDIDATURES OF NEW MEMBERS**

Comrades,

I want to share with all of you some basic reflections on how to help the collective task of choosing the new management of our TUI. That election will take place at the end of our Second Congress.

We are still in the preparation stage of the Congress, and therefore we have enough months before it. During this time, we may reflect, exchange comments and opinions and prepare CRITERIA, not names for the time being, with which to select the people that could be appointed to carry on different tasks.

The name proposals (each indicating the position and qualifications for which the candidate is considered to be in good condition to fulfill such responsibility), we believe that they must be done (in writing) only 3 months before the start of the Second Congress, and each of them must come from a collective body of one of the unions affiliated to our TUI of Pensioners and Retirees of the WFTU.

### **SOME GENERAL REFLECTIONS.-**

Our TUI is young in years of existence, and that is why the trade unionists adhered to it do not know each other sufficiently, and we usually have few experiences of having worked together.

Some comrades, even if they are from different continents or countries, can be known by previous activities within the WFTU, but this is not the case in most of the cases.

On the other hand, the working methods developed by Pensioners and Retirees are not always the same as those used by non-retired trade unionists, that is, those still in the age of active workers.

We Pensioners and Retirees can dedicate an important part of our daily life time to the union tasks without needing any economical compensation, of union origin, to pay for this work.

Our age and the limited training that we could acquire in the use and control of new technologies do not always help us to be able to use modern communication systems.

The different languages that serve to understand us also become a barrier that too often hinders exchanges.

To facilitate our mutual knowledge, we launched, on the occasion of our First Congress, a website (in 12 languages):  
<http://www.pensionistas.info/web/es>

At this website, in addition to much classified information organized to facilitate its use, there is the history of union struggle of a part of the leaders of our TUI (only those who sent us their CV).

They are union CVs (Curriculum Vitae), which can be seen, in different languages, on the website of our UIS:

<http://www.pensionistas.info/web/en/node/836>

<http://www.pensionistas.info/web/en/node/837>

<http://www.pensionistas.info/web/en/node/838>

<http://www.pensionistas.info/web/en/node/839>

<http://www.pensionistas.info/web/fr/node/840>

<http://www.pensionistas.info/web/fr/node/841>

These CVs correspond only to a part of the current members of the management teams of our TUI.

When receiving the CVs that we still lack from the comrades who were elected in the First Congress of our TUI as members of the world leadership, or the CVs of the comrades of the different continents who have participated in the 5 Regional or Continental Conferences held, those we will be adding to our website.

In previous paragraphs we have already valued the collective work, both positively and in its shortcomings, of the management team chosen in our First Congress.

In summary, our TUI has not been able to make its management teams work and this is one of the main challenges to be overcome from the Second Congress onwards.

From the previous reflections come off, as possible:

**PROPOSED CRITERIA TO FUTURE CANDIDATES TO BE APPOINTED AS MEMBERS OF THE NEW MANAGEMENT TEAMS OF PENSIONERS AND RETIREES ´ TUI OF THE WFTU:**

- 1) To be a Pensioner or Retiree
- 2) Belonging to a class organization affiliated with the WFTU
- 3) Provide a summary of between 300 and 600 words of the union history of the person proposed
- 4) Receive the proposal of an organic collective that sends the proposal after having discussed it collectively
- 5) Detail what responsibility or responsibilities are believed to be developed in the TUI ´s management team.

6) Indicate, if you already have other union responsibilities, what percentage of your time, dedicated to the union struggle you will be able to allocate to the Pensioners and Retirees ´ TUI.

7) Inform about the languages you know or with which you can work (even if you are helped by other people in your environment, or by other technical means).

8) To know the capacities of email and video conferences that could be developed by each new candidate.

## **AS A CONCLUSION**

Comrades:

We are going to hold a great and important Second Congress.

We will all be satisfied by the progress of our collective work, by the sincerity, the criticism and the self-criticism with which we will have made the congress process; a participatory, democratic process, open to all the class organizations of Pensioners and Retirees worldwide.

So, let's make a wide spread and discussion of the ideas contained in this report.

With a good discussion of all the ideas expressed so far, and with the subsequent election of the best leaders, we can certainly conclude this Second Congress affirming that our TUI has taken an important step forward to consolidate and improve our capacity to fight in defense of the rights of the Pensioners and Retirees around the world.

That is how we will reinforce the WFTU and make further approaches to a future society without exploiters or exploited.

**LONG AND DIFFERENT LIFE FOR PENSIONERS AND RETIRES!**

**LONG LIVE THE WFTU!**

Barcelona, March 2,018

Quim Boix

General Secretary of the TUI (Union of Trade Unions) of Pensioners and Retirees of the WFTU

<http://www.wftucentral.org/?language=es>, <http://www.pensionistas.info/web/es>

### ANNEX 1.-

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### LIST OF TASKS TO ORIENT THE WORK OF THE COORDINATORS OF OUR TUI

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They are about contributing to the success of the work meeting that we are about to organize in Athens on February 13, 2018, where we have been invited by PAME´s Pensioners and Retirees to prepare the Second Congress of our TUI.

There we will discuss the next proposal, which states:

The Objectives of the Second Congress after having fulfilled the fundamental objective set out in the First Congress (to create the entire structure of the Pensioners and Retirees´ TUI) are: 1) To increase the awareness that the struggle of the P & J is global (against capitalism and its management center, the IMF, which wants to privatize pensions, in order to manage this money -which is greater than that managed by banks-, and to suppress this solidarity right, transforming it into an unsupportive and individual one). 2) To succeed in defining the proposals that would make it easier a joint regional and global struggle. 3) To ensure that the members of the leadership elected in the 2nd Congress assume their global responsibility as the most important one of their union responsibilities and dedicate their capacities and time fully to this. 4) To provide ourselves with economic means that would allow us to act as TUI.

In order to contribute to the success of the meeting I propose that each coordinator should contact the countries of its territorial area and should collect, during January of 2008, the following information (if only in one language) of the organizations with criteria of class (anti capitalists and anti-imperialists<sup>11</sup>), whether they are unions or associations of Pensioners and Retirees:



1. Name of Pensioners and Retirees´ organizations existing in each country.
2. List of the previous ones that are affiliated with the WFTU.
3. List of the previous ones which befriend or may befriend the WFTU.
4. Approximate number of members of each organization.
5. List of activities developed by each of the organizations aforementioned.
6. List of their main claims for the Pensioners and Retirees of their country.
7. Name and electronic address of the main leaders of each organization.

The collected information will be sent to the General Secretariat of our TUI, when available.

Thanks a lot!

Quim Boix

### **ADDED:**

8. Name of all class unions in each country, whether or not they have a Pensioners and Retirees´ organization, to plan how to convince them to organize those Pensioners and Retirees.

### **ANNEX 2.-**

#### **Reflections on gifts.**

I want to start by explaining that during our First Congress of the TUI of Pensioners and Retirees of the WFTU held in Barcelona in February 2014, I, as General Secretary, received the following presents from comrades and organizations attending the Congress:

- a) clothes from India (from the two delegations)

- b) a book from Cyprus
- c) a bottle of liquor from Greece
- d) 2 wooden objects from Nepal
- e) 6 watches from Bahrain
- f) cigars, cigarettes and poster from Cuba

It is more that I´m currently forgetting some other gifts received at that time, so I give my apologies.

Anyway, I want to take advantage of this report to personally thank those who made each of the presents. Given the dynamics of Congress I did not personally thank anyone (fro instance, the comrades from Bahrain gave me watches while I was driving them - almost asleep -to their flight back home).

I know the gifts were also received by other delegates and leaders of the new TUI. In several cases the deliveries were made in public, always with the aim of showing appreciation.

Some other people also received personal gifts; not everybody there, as it was not possible for the sixty comrades that performed their militant and voluntary work, comrades who helped the organization and functioning of Congress. I know particular cases, certainly not all.

The mutual exchange of gifts is a good social habit of mankind, dating back to the origins times. This is much more common at meetings or international events.

Gifts are a token of friendship and leave a good memory in people receiving and satisfaction corresponding to the attention received by the person who has travelled to another country and delivered the gift. So far there is no problem about it.

Reflection on the presents not aimed to have collective use.

If the present is given to an organization or group, this organization decides what to do with it: expose at its headquarters, place it in the library, etc.

The problem arises for me as Secretary-General when the present is only intended for personal use (like some of the gifts received during the Congress held in Barcelona).

Also, in these cases there is usually not enough presents (it may be too expensive) so that you can give one to each delegation or person attending the meeting.

Then the gifts accumulate in the person with greater collective responsibility. And, again, if these are presents for personal use, an unfairness or inequality appears. And the class unions fight for equality.

Surely the intention of those whom gives the present is far away from creating any kind of inequality or to embarrass the gift recipient.

But I, as a recipient of some of those gifts (I mean gifts I cannot share due to its inner and particular nature), still feel uncomfortable two months after the Congress, so that is why I propose this reflection:

### **WOULD IT BE FAIR THAT I RECEIVE ANY PRESENT OR GIFT FOR A COLLECTIVE WORK?**

I think this is the core of the problem.

So, I open wide this reflection on our TUI, and before reaching any conclusion among I want to present my proposal.

MY PROPOSAL ON THIS POINT SHOULD BE CLEAR:

a) The real gift we receive from each person or delegation attending a meeting in another country is their mere presence, as the must pay for their trip.

b) In case someone or some organization wants to leave a souvenir, it should always be something for public use, either as an exhibit at the headquarters of the organization which organized the meeting, either for consumption of all (ie, it must bring

enough). This is, a copy for each person attending (probably so expensive that my proposal becomes deterrent and will conclude not carrying any gifts or wearing a simple logo or small object, as Congressperson of various delegations did at Barcelona).

c) We advise everybody not to bring any present for personal use, given exclusively to one or several of the leaders, but for all the people that take part in the meeting.

I HOPE YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROPOSAL

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<sup>1</sup> IMF, WB, OECD, EU, which offer loans to previously impoverished countries, in exchange for the commitment of their governments to implement the neoliberal policies that these organisms demand.

<sup>2</sup> Understanding as a proletarian / a to the person who does not own the means of production to exploit others, whether you already have a salary as if it is missing or is insufficient

<sup>3</sup> Understanding as a worker, as we understand by proletarian.

<sup>4</sup> The anti-patriarchal struggle is not a specific issue within the class struggle, as our statutes indicate it is a struggle on a par with the class struggle and, as we shall see, before it. And understanding as a working woman who works both if she does it in exchange for a salary or not.

<sup>5</sup> Or "that resources be dedicated"

<sup>6</sup> As we stated in Geneva at the ILO meeting

<sup>7</sup> Without forgetting that, in all cases, these pensions were made dependent on the contributions, not on the PGE, and these depend on the GNP that, in turn, depends on the National Accounting System (SCN) that makes any proletarian, disqualified. This affects doubly the women who stopped receiving a salary for engaging in unpaid production and reproduction tasks, as well as free care. In this regard we will boremos a document that supports this argument.

<sup>8</sup> Understanding as proletarian what was said in note 2.

<sup>9</sup> The pensions were made dependent on the contributions, not on the PGE, and these depend on the GNP that, in turn, depends on the SNA. (in the USSR of the SPM, which is also patriarchal, it also makes the work of production and reproduction invisible, as well as that of care carried out mainly by non-salaried women)

<sup>10</sup> Currently it has not been eradicated, it continues to exist in its archaic format as well as the new form of slavery mentioned in late capitalism, especially that of slaves.

<sup>11</sup> We would now add "and antipatriarcales "