

EUROFEDOP SEMINAR

Preserving the rule of law and a functioning democracy; the role of workers in the public sector

21-22.09.2023
Strasbourg (France)

Short Report



The first ever EUROFEDOP seminar to take place in the European Parliament in Strasbourg was attended by 90 trade union delegates from across Europe. The importance of discussing the rule of law and a functioning democracy was stressed by two Members of European Parliament (MEP's) who addressed the audience: Lukas Mandl (Austria) and Anne Sander (France). With the upcoming European elections in June 2024, seminar participants discussed priorities, participation, and leveraging EUROFEDOP's channels to put public service employees' priorities high on the European agenda.

Alain Mazeau, Vice-President of EUROFEDOP and special advisor to the president of FFPT-CFTC welcomed all participants to Strasbourg on Thursday 21 September. Further opening remarks came from Piergiorgio Sciacqua, Co-President of the European Centre for Workers' Questions (EZA), Irène Weiss, Regional Advisor, Council of Grand Est and Norbert Schnedl, President of EUROFEDOP.



Anne Sander, MEP



Lukas Mandl, MEP



Piergiorgio Sciacqua Irène Weiss Alain Mazeau Norbert Schnedl

An engaging presentation on ‘Social dialogue and the rule of law – a comparative perspective’ was delivered by Lazar Jovevski, full time professor at the Faculty of Law, Labour Law and Social law at the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje. All speakers underlined the importance of actively involving public service workers in shaping our policies and societies in Europe.

The first day of the seminar was followed by a reception and dinner at the Hilton Hotel, during which participants were treated to a cheerful performance by traditional Alsatian folk dancers.

On Friday 22 September the seminar continued with speakers from across various European and regional institutions. Strasbourg being home to the Council of Europe as well, two speakers focused specifically on the European Committee of Social Rights and the mechanisms of the European Social Charter: Henrik Kristensen, Deputy Executive Secretary, European Committee of Social Rights and Prof. Jozséf Hajdu, Professor of Labour law and Social Security and a member of the European Committee of Social Rights. This year celebrates the 25th anniversary of the entry into effect of the complaints procedure.

The speakers reminded participants of the fact that not yet all Council of Europe member states have accepted this, and that acceptance will contribute to a more coherent legal space for the implementation of social rights in Europe.



Lazar Jovevski



Henrik Kristensen



Jozséf Hajdu



Daniela Senk



Annick Wenger

Daniela Senk, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Logistics and Conference in the European Parliament talked about access to the European Parliament for external visitors and ensuring conferences run smoothly. This was followed by a guided tour through the different parts of the building in Strasbourg, the official seat of the European Parliament.



Norbert Schnedl Bert Van Caelenberg

Annick Wenger, Secretary General of the CFTC Grand Est region spoke about the effects of health on public service workers before and after the COVID pandemic, and the consequences of labour shortages in the sector.

The seminar was moderated by Femke Beumer.

Bert Van Caelenberg and Norbert Schnedl closed the seminar and also looked ahead at upcoming activities including the setting up of a Working Group on health.



This Seminar has been funded by the European Union



European Commission



European Centre for Workers' Questions