

ETUCE PRESS RELEASE

EDUCATION, TRAINING and YOUTH FORUM 2014: OUR FUTURE IN EUROPE

ETUCE: Lack of investment and social dialogue

9 October 2014

Today and tomorrow, on 9-10 October 2014, the third *Education, Training and Youth Forum* of the European Commission brought together stakeholders and social partners to discuss on challenges of implementing and on identifying the future priorities of the [Strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training \(ET2020\)](#).

ETUCE welcomes the message of Ms Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Training and Youth, who highlighted in her speech the role of effective partnership in education and training and underlined a threat: *“potential partners are not always aware of each others’ activities”*.

We fully support the statement of Mr Xavier Prats-Monné, Director General for Education and Culture of the European Commission, who said that *“if Europe wants to regain confidence in its future it must regain confidence in its education. To achieve this, it is essential to have trust in our teachers”*.

Martin Rømer, ETUCE European Director, brought the needs of the European teachers and researchers to the attention of participants of the forum during a panel discussion. *“If we want quality in education, we have to tackle the forthcoming challenges: investment in education and investment in teachers”*, he said, and added: *“it is necessary to have a holistic view on education and training. We are sometimes too fragmented and specific on the requirements from education and training. Teachers’ trade unions also expressed their views on the future priorities and on the implementation of the [EU2020](#) and the [ET2020](#) strategies. They highlighted the need for better European and national level cooperation with social partners. The objectives of the future strategies have to be in line with the reality.”*

ETUCE expressed its firm conviction that quality education has a key role to play in tackling the economic crisis, in increasing social well-being and democratic participation in society, as well as in fostering growth and preparing the adults of tomorrow. During the Forum, ETUCE has reiterated its strong demands to European leaders to prioritise investment in education as the sole way to increase potential economic growth in Europe and to reduce social inequalities.

Martin Rømer underlined that *“there is no quick-fix to reforms in education. Effective and sustainable reforms come only from hard work and a dedicated commitment to listen to those that are involved on the ground.”*

ETUCE is a strong advocator of the right for quality education for all, and stands for education goals that are meaningful beyond simple metrics and contingent business needs. To support this stance, Martin Rømer added that *“EU 2020 and ET 2020 should be based on the assumption that an educated population in Europe can make a difference in overcoming the crisis, in combatting the*

numerous emerging social challenges such as increased nationalism and extremism, EU-scepticism and growing social inequalities, for the social and economic success of Member States.”