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ETUCE

European Trade Union Committee for Education EI European Region

ETUCE Statement

on the Proposal for a Council Recommendation on Early School Leaving

EUROPEAN REGION- ETUCE

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Hereby ETUCE would like to highlight its views on the *Proposal for a Council Recommendation on Early School Leaving* as a contribution to the debate at the Education Council meeting on 19-20 May, 2011.

ETUCE, the European Trade Union Committee for Education represents 135 Teacher Unions in Europe and 12.8 million teachers from all levels of the education sector. ETUCE is a Social Partner in education at the EU level and an Industry Federation within ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation. ETUCE is the European Region of Education International.



ETUCE welcomes the fact that the Proposal acknowledges the key role of teachers, school leaders and educational staff in combating against early school leaving. We appreciate that enhancing teachers' competences by initial and continuous professional development is also recommended to the Member States in order to deal with pupils at risk of drop-out.

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In a socio-culturally diverse school environment the teachers need to be prepared to tackle the violence and bullying among students. Nevertheless, quite often the teachers themselves are the target of the aggression, from students or from parents. The increasing aggressive behaviour, whether or not based on discrimination, is demonstrated by several cases of hitting, shooting and killing of teachers by their students. Thus, we would like to highlight that the proposed social, financial, educational and psychological support should also be provided for the teachers working with disadvantaged groups. ETUCE invites the Education Council to recommend preventive measures enabling teachers to recognise the atypical behaviour in time and to efficiently handle it.

European Director

Martin Rømer

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As regards the individualised learning, the Proposal should take into account that the teachers already face heavy workload. We urge the Member States to invest more in education, to recruit more teachers to be involved in tutoring, mentoring while focusing on pupils at risk of dropping out.

Additional investment is of the utmost importance to prepare educators to deal with pupils at the risk of drop-out, such as migrants, Roma, and any disadvantaged groups, for instance by providing special trainings to teachers and by changing the curricula of the teacher colleges and teacher universities.

Finally, ETUCE wishes to draw the attention of the Education Council to the fact that any education-related recommendation should integrate the approach of the pupils, teachers, school leaders and school staff as reforms are equally valid for all the actors of the school environment.