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**“A common demand for a common future”  
FIRST EMF COMMON DEMAND  
THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHT TO TRAINING**

***5<sup>th</sup> EMF Collective Bargaining Policy Conference  
Roma, 11th & 12th October 2005***

The 5<sup>th</sup> Collective Bargaining Policy Conference of the European Metalworkers' Federation has just ended. For two days, more than 220 delegates have debated about the situation in Europe in relation to collective bargaining. Although the current situation is not that bright, the Conference concluded on a distinctly optimistic approach.

“All of the affiliated organisations clearly showed their willingness to reinforce the co-ordination strategy of the EMF and to work even more closely together in the future. This Conference clearly puts us on the right track!” stated Peter Scherrer, EMF General Secretary“.

Conference emphatically reiterated its support for the EMF wage co-ordination rule in a joint statement demonstrating that the metalworkers' trade unions in Europe are not willing to undercut each other in the domain of wages, working time and working conditions. This will need more, further and deeper co-operation than ever before between all of the affiliated metalworkers' trade unions in Europe. The necessity and the strength of our European collective bargaining network - Eucob@ - was highlighted in this respect when Conference also pointed out the need to reinforce and broaden this network to all related elements, including negotiations in major multinational companies.

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Conference also agreed on a resolution related to precarious employment. It thus sent a clear signal to employers that the European trade unions are not opposed to changes in work organisation or flexibility as such, but that we cannot accept a unilaterally imposed system that puts the workers in a precarious situation, which is without any job security, without equal treatment and without social security.

Conference moreover launched the first EMF common demand: the individual right to training. "Training will now be high on the agenda everywhere", stated Bart Samyn, EMF Deputy General Secretary, "showing clearly to employers that we can act in a co-ordinated way on important issues. Over the next 4 years we will campaign to provide this right to training on all levels and for all workers". Training is an essential tool in a new employment strategy, in a knowledge-based society, and can as such help to safeguard the European Social Model. It is also a new step forward in the EMF collective bargaining strategy, i.e. towards more co-ordination. For the very first time metalworkers' trade unions will put on the agenda of their collective bargaining rounds a common European demand, making the European co-ordination strategy visible to all, and reinforcing the solidarity between trade unions in Europe.

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