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ETUC Press release

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**Social partners and the Commission decide that more cooperation is needed in the field of education and training policies**

Brussels, 18/10/2013

***Social partners (ETUC, BusinessEurope, UEAPME, CEEP) and Commissioner Vassiliou at their meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, agreed to cooperate more in the preparation and implementation of education and training policies, and to develop the social dialogue on these topics. The areas and objectives of cooperation are set out in a document to be endorsed by all parties.***

Bernadette Ségal, ETUC General Secretary welcomed the initiative and said: "At the present time, education and training have a more important contribution to make to employment; achieving common goals in education and training via enhanced dialogue with the social partners is more crucial now than ever. Priorities such as quality of education and training, attractiveness of VET (Vocational education and training), transition and apprenticeship and, continuous training for all workers at the workplace are of utmost importance and require specific involvement and consultations with the social partners. Austerity measures should not be used as a reason to cut public funding for education and training or to weaken the social dialogue in these fields at European and national levels".

***The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) exists to speak with a single voice, on behalf of the common interests of workers, at European level. Founded in 1973, it now represents 85 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 10 industry-based federations. The ETUC is***

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