



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación

ETUCE

European Trade Union Committee for Education EI European Region

<http://www.ei-ie.org>

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ETUCE**

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To: Mrs Galina Merkulova
ESEUR President

Brussels, 17 March 2020

Subject: Your invitation to the 8th ESEUR Congress

Dear Galina,

We thank you for your kind invitation to the 8th ESEUR Congress at which the congress delegates will be electing a new leadership and analysing the results of the work and activities that the union and the affiliates have been carrying out over the past five years.

We regret to have to inform you that, despite our commitment to attend this important event, we are prevented from doing so due to considerable administrative hurdle and the travel restrictions due to the global epidemic of the COVID-19 virus.

It is indeed a pity that we cannot attend the debate of our colleagues from ESEUR in defining the future work programme of the union, especially in these challenging times of digitalisation and climate emergency which have a huge impact on education and society as a whole. Teachers, academics and other education personnel as well as their unions have to address the increasing privatisation of public services in the current global context, while facing the decline and neglect of the value and respect for the teaching profession, the working conditions of teachers and the quality of education. Above all, we must never forget that education is about the future generation and preparing young people for their life as critical thinking democratic citizens. As education trade unions we work continuously to ensure that we remain the voice of the teaching profession both as regards the professional issues of teachers as well as regards the content of education. Indeed, in need for enhanced solidarity among teachers and their unions at national, European and global level, ETUCE and its member organisations stand together to promote a meaningful and effective social dialogue in the education sector.

We take this opportunity to emphasise the important role that ESEUR plays within ETUCE and EI and express our warm gratitude for the contribution, engagement and solidarity of our colleagues in the Russian Federation. We also thank you, Galina, for your personal engagement and contribution to ETUCE as Vice-President.

Forced to limit our contribution to sending by email our sincerest wishes for a successful gathering, we extend our warmest greetings to all participants and guests attending the event.

Wishing you a fruitful continuation of your work and every success in achieving the goals you have set for the union in the future, we remain,

In solidarity,

Handwritten signature of Christine Blower in black ink.

Christine Blower
ETUCE President

Handwritten signature of Susan Flocken in blue ink.

Susan Flocken
European Director