



INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF EMPLOYERS

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PRESS RELEASE

IOE sees opportunities from the creation of a new trade union international - Vienna, 2 November 2006

A merger based on the World Confederation of Labour (WCL) and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) has seen the creation of a new trade union international which will cover 154 countries and represent some 168 million workers.

IOE Secretary-General Antonio Peñalosa said: “The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) consolidates the voice of the international trade union movement and provides the IOE with a singular interlocutor at the global level”.

“In recent years, collaboration with the former ICFTU has seen joint global positions developed in areas including HIV/AIDS and youth employment and we have every reason to believe the ITUC will continue to explore areas of common interest”, he said.

“There are a number of important challenges the world of work faces both within the ILO and at national level and we welcome the opportunity to seek meaningful ways to address those with the ITUC”, he continued.

“We will not agree on everything, but we have so many things in common that present conditions with the newly born organization are even better for advancing a global consensus on those issues where shared interests can be identified”, Mr Peñalosa concluded.

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The International Organisation of Employers (IOE) is the organization representing the interests of employers in international social and labour policy debates, with over 142 member federations in 136 countries. The IOE is the largest global business network and the only recognized voice of employers on social and labour issues at world level.