

4 March 2016 – FERPA Executive Committee
SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS BY GENERAL SECRETARY
CARLA CANTONE

We have had two important days. On 3 March, the Women's Committee meeting was held in the morning, at which Anna Martinez Lopez presented an excellent report with a shared programme that was much appreciated.

I am pleased with the discussions we have had in the Executive Committee over these two days and with the fact that you approved my assessments and proposals. I am well aware that the programme is ambitious, but I can see us moving full speed ahead if each and every one of you does his or her share.

I have listened to all of you and have taken due note of everything you had to say. I shall therefore continue moving forward with the programme and the meetings, with the countries and pensioners' organisations and will endeavour to establish and cultivate relations with countries that are no longer affiliated to FERPA. I welcome

volunteers and would like to thank those who have already come forward.

In that regard, I would like to thank the Chair of the Financial Audit Committee for her work and for the clarification she sought to provide. Anyone who thinks that I will only be doing bureaucratic office work is mistaken: that is to completely misunderstand my programme to strengthen FERPA and to seek to represent and defend Europe's retired and older people within a trade union context.

This is the first time that the Chairman of the Youth Committee has attended an Executive Committee meeting. It has been very valuable, as we will be working together to prepare a protocol of intent on intergenerational relations.

Henri and I will take part in all ETUC working groups on issues affecting the people we represent and we will get the voice and strategy of FERPA heard, as we explained yesterday.

I would appreciate it if you could send me your trade union documents and information on the actions you are pursuing. If none are forthcoming, I shall send you a reminder email.

The selected documents will prove useful for the Observatory and for the website. I agree that a selection process is required, otherwise the Observatory will become an archive of papers that nobody will consult.

We must join forces with the ETUC to fight against austerity which, as many of you pointed out during the discussions, fosters inequalities.

The *poster on older people's rights* must not be mere propaganda, but rather an instrument to inform older people in every country of what FERPA is and what it aims to do for them.

As you said, FERPA must raise its profile and strengthen alliances to defend retired and older people.

What Malik – and then Janine – proposed about the TTIP will be done. We will post documents on the *website* and I shall talk to Luca Visentini.

As to the areas of *research* which I proposed, I can confirm again that these are:

- Young people
- Energy poverty
- Nutrition

(on this point, Dick will help me to contact the international foundation he mentioned).

I will ask Lazlo from Hungary to schedule meetings with Zita Gurmai in Brussels.

I propose an *Austria/Hungary meeting* to decide together how and when we can make contact with the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

We must support *FERPA's wonderful initiative in Belgrade* on 5 and 6 April, for which you will receive an invitation from Melgari on behalf of FERPA.

Finally, as regards what is happening in Europe at the moment in terms of *migration flows*, I believe that we can all agree on three points:

1. We must fight against the return of virulent nationalism and extremism.
2. We want a free and democratic Europe that respects human rights. To this end, a viable long-term plan is needed so that countries are not left to cope with migratory flows on their own.

3. We have to build a social Europe, a Europe of jobs and solidarity.

With your approval, I would like to have a mandate to turn these statements into a resolution of our own, as you requested during the discussions.

We will send you Henry's and Anna's documents, my report and the conclusions, in French, English, Spanish and Italian. They will also be posted on the website.

To those of you who celebrate Easter, I wish you a Happy Easter.

The *Steering Committee* will meet in Brussels on 1 June 2016 and the *Executive Committee* on 18-19 October 2016.