

Climate of change for sustainable development at the OECD

The release of the OECD's LMP report on workplace action is a useful tool to support union efforts to integrate economic, environmental and social aspects of growth, globalization and development in their deliberations and policy.

A positive shift in OECD thinking was evident at the OECD's "Annual Meeting of Sustainable Development Experts (AMSDE)" on 13-14 September, when over 100 representatives from thirty countries met with BIAC, TUAC and NGO delegations to formulate proposals destined for the OECD Council of Ministers later in the year.

For the first time, Chairs of nine OECD committees met to discuss how to better integrate sustainable development within their work, which will directly influence economic & environment policy, development assistance, education, investment, fisheries, science & technology, economic development and industry and business.

A discussion document produced for the meeting outlines a number of the challenges that will arise out of attempts to integrate sustainable development, including issues related to employment, stakeholder participation, corporate accountability, public health as well as poverty and equity programmes.

AMSDE agreed to continue the dialogue process in all of its committees as the foundation of future work, identifying new work and funding priorities for its programme. It also identified additional avenues for promoting detailed discussions on sustainable development within OECD and the broader community.

TUAC strengthens links to Country Profiling and UN CSD.

TUAC will be present when the OECD Environment Policy Committee (EPOC) meets in Poland next week to commence an update of the 2001 *Environmental Outlook*, its information and data systems covering a broad range of issues relating to drivers of environmental change, natural resource use, and policies on energy, climate change and transportation. Employment, health, and social implications of OECD policies will also come under scrutiny, as will production, consumption and waste issues in selected industries and sectors. The OECD *Environment Strategy* (see above) is one of several indirect outputs of the *Outlook*.

Solidarnosc from Poland and the TUAC Secretariat will join the meeting to deliver a trade union message about the need to integrate sustainable development and take into account social drivers of change, including workers, trade unions and employers, through joint approaches in the workplace and at the community level.

As well, TUAC and ICFTU are currently preparing trade union delegations for both the UNFCCC Climate Change Conference (COP12) in Kenya this November, and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in New York next May. OECD recommendations dealing with climate, energy and industrial development will be delivered in both venues.

In preparation for these and other meetings, the Trade Union Sustainable Development Unit at TUAC continues to integrate OECD data and analysis into its own country profiling for sustainable development. The web page for the TU SusDev UNIT is located at <http://www.tradeunionsdunit.org/profiles/>