

Joint Motion

from Amicus (UK), EMF affiliates in Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Iceland, IG Metall (Germany), GMB and TGWU (UK), FM/CC.OO (Spain), UNIA (Switzerland), OS Kovo (Czech Republic), GMTN (Austria), FNV Bondgenoten (Netherlands) and CCMB (Belgium)

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Increased Cooperation between European Industry Federations

The shifting balance in the European economy away from traditional industries towards an economy now seemingly dominated by services and high-technology companies, has had a dramatic effect on the make up of European manufacturing. This had led to the divisions between traditional industrial sectors becoming increasingly blurred.

The changing nature of industry has been one of the motivating factors in the increasing number of mergers at the national level of trade unions active in industrial sectors of the economy. These mergers are about unions coming together to pool resources, services and expertise to better represent the interests of all their members across industry.

However, the move towards greater unity amongst the European Industrial Federations has been slower, despite the fact that the core activities of these organisations are overlapping to a greater and greater extent. None of the European Industry Federations can look at the work they do in isolation when the divisions between industrial sectors in Europe are becoming increasingly unclear.

This Congress believes that a united trade union front towards industry in Europe is required to offer a real counterweight to the power of employers in these sectors. The Congress applauds the joint work programme being developed by the EMF, EMCEF and ETUF-TCL to increase concrete cooperation especially in the areas of collective bargaining policy, company policy and industrial policy. Within the framework of this co-operation the European Industry Federations should also work towards structural change in the form of a merger.

This EMF Congress therefore resolves that the EMF shall:

- Continue its efforts to increase concrete co-operation between the European Trade Union Federations active in the industrial sectors, especially with EMCEF and ETUF-TCL;
- Work towards structural change in the form of a merger with EMCEF and ETUF-TCL, creating a single European Trade Union Federation for Industry;
- Call upon affiliates to actively support a similar move towards structural change at the global level where they are affiliated to IMF, ICEM or ITGLWF, as appropriate;
- Be clear that any potential merger shall not be used as a means to reduce overall resources, but instead shall be about better and

more effective use of existing resources to more effectively represent the interests of European workers in the industrial sectors;

- Report regularly to the Executive Committee and be in a position to present a strategy for the future during 2008.