

Yesterday Fellesforbundet ended its 5th ordinary congress after six days of tough debates in a good atmosphere. Congress had hundreds of proposals to consider under the following items:

Organisation, recruitment and statutes  
Collective bargaining policy and social dumping  
Industrial policy, energy and environment  
Public and collectively agreed retirement  
The political situation

Congress had debates with industrial minister Dag Terje Andersen and Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, and the at the top of the agenda was the future retirement system. Also social dumping was a big issue.

The expected controversies regarding the early retirement schemes was solved in the resolutions committee, and congress unanimously adopted a resolution setting the agenda for next years collective bargaining round on this topic. Due to the new retirement scheme adopted by parliament, and set to come into force in 2010, there has to be made changes to the collectively bargained scheme which gives most of our members the right to retire at 62 with full rights in both from the public and the collectively agreed system. The unanimous decision by congress demands that an early retirement scheme, which is up for renegotiation at next years collective bargaining round, says that the new arrangement should give all who need early retirement the possibility to retire at 62 with a pension that is at least as good as it is today. The new scheme should compensate for future adjustments for the increase in general living age. Government should continue its taxadvantages for those who retire on the new retirement scheme.

Congress adopted a resolution on social dumping which entails several demands on government and Parliament, such as making collective agreements generally binding, following up on the responsibility of the main contractors to control conditions of their subcontractors and demand a regulation for joint liability, give trade union officials the right to see work contracts for all workers on a site, demand the implementation of ILO 94 also in publicly owned companies, work for an authorisation arrangement for hiring companies and give more power to the Labour Inspectorate. Congress also with a majority demanded that Norway should say no to the services directive.

Congress unanimously elected Arve Bakke as President following Kjell Bjørndalen, who has held the position for 16 years, and has reached the age of retirement. Arve Bakke has been 1<sup>st</sup> vice president since 2001, and has particularly carried responsibility for our collective bargaining policy.

Congress voted for a reduction of the top leadership of the union. From now five officials will constitute the top leadership. All former unions in Fellesforbundet will in addition have one official with the right to attend, speak at and make proposals to the new executive committee.

The elections were as follows:

President	Arve Bakke (Metal sector)
1 <sup>st</sup> vice president	Anders Skattkjær (Graphical sector)
2 <sup>nd</sup> vice president	Hans Christian Gabrielsen (Pulp and paper sector)
Treasurer	Steinar Karlsen (Construction sector)
1 <sup>st</sup> federal secretary	Eli Ljungren (Hotel, restaurant and tourism sector)

Elected officers

Anne Marie Pettersen (Textiles and clothing sector)

Halvor Langseth (Construction sector)

Rolf Jørn Karlsen (Forestry and agriculture sector)

Svein Hille (Pulp and paper sector)

Liv Christiansen (Metal sector)

Clas Delp (Hotel, restaurant and tourism sector)

Knut Øygard (Graphical sector)

Best regards

Fellesforbundet

Atle Høie

International Secretary