

PROPOSED SEMINAR ON THE BRAIN DRAIN IN ARAB COUNTRIES

The brain drain is not a new problem. It has been noted and studied on several occasions by international organisations and has been considered in various recommendations.

Today still and in a context characterized by the aggravation of the economic crisis and the extension of the activities of multinational companies, it is to be noted that far from improving, this phenomenon is taking on even greater dimensions which jeopardize the efficiency and application of these recommendations.

The situation should provoke serious questions. In fact, it seems more and more evident that none of the recommendations have gone to the root, to the fundamental causes or that, when valid, they have been turned aside from proper application.

The trade union organisations of E.M.T.s are aware of this worsening situation which concerns both industrialized and developing countries.

With the former, the brain drain often occurs to the detriment of certain countries only ; in addition, the high percentage of immigrants may serve as a basis for manoeuvre against the organised trade union action of E.M.T.s on the national level, as well as a pretext for governments to favour immigration in order to adopt a policy allowing them to reduce investment in professional training.

The developing countries, however, are victims of the worst effects because the brain drain constitutes a sort of tribute paid to industrialized countries which is in no way compensated for by development aid, but above all, it prevents or restrains any development policy for these countries.

The concern of E.M.T.s confronted with the evolution of this phenomenon has not yet received all the attention it deserves in the work of international organisations. Thus, the report of the Director General of the I.L.O., published at the conclusion of the tripartite World Conference on employment, the distribution of income, social progress and the international division of labour, attributes minor importance to the situation, because of an insufficient analysis rather than the in depth study which it deserves.

It is in this context that the Liaison Committee of the International Trade Union Conference of Engineers, Supervisory and Managerial Staffs and Technicians created in Turin in April 1975, took the initiative addressed to union organisations of all affiliations and turned as well to professional and scientific organisations concerned with the development of a union activity linked to that of all categories of workers, constituting a means of exchange and confrontation for their diverse experience.

Meeting on the 12th and 13th April 1975 in Marrakech, it was decided to arrange, in the context of its activities, the organisation of a Seminar to draw the attention of public opinion and union organisations of E.M.T.s to this problem. The theme of this Seminar will be :

"The brain drain and the development of the consciousness of E.M.T.s of their social responsibility in relation to this phenomenon".

To allow for efficient work, the accent will be placed upon this phenomenon in Arab Countries, with the active participation not only of Arab Organisations but of all other interested parties.

It is certain that the discussions during this Seminar will show the close liaison between the social role of E.M.T.s and their other demands.

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