

Conference Presentations

Gala Dinner Speeches

Mr Michalis Komninos, (Greece), President INE Communications

Dear friends, I have the honour to give you the warmest welcome of the President of the Union of Labour, who is at the same time the President of the Work Institute, and myself, I would like to talk to you about some issues that deal with tomorrow's conference.

First of all, the inclusion of the people with motor disabilities in all levels of social life is a problem of every society. It is not a national problem. The year 2003 is dedicated to the people with special needs and can be a motive for each one of us from the position that we have to fight in order to achieve a common aim which is the equal inclusion of these people.

A job, without any question, can be one of the most important factors of socialization. People with motor disabilities should not be treated as people who cannot work and take only state benefits. They should be actively involved in the labour market depending on their qualifications. We, as a Trade Union, should fight for their rights.

It is obvious that the people with motor disabilities cannot perform jobs that are strenuous for the body but they can perform jobs that are relaxed to the use of the computers, for example, and today, jobs like that, have been radically increased and people with special needs have more opportunities and chances for vocations and rehabilitation.

We realize that the problems are many. The solution can be promoted through wider social dialogue with all the involved parties. Taking advantage of the modern means of technology, social dialogue is facilitated at the solution of work. The work Institutes can work with union schools as the participation of people with special needs into the Trade Union. We believe that the work problems can be better promoted because they know them better than anyone else.

Our social responsibility to these people with special needs is given. Our participation in similar programs as well as our efforts that do not stop, shows our interest. People with special needs in any case can and should be a productive part of the society. The promotion of social dialogue at a level higher and wider than a national one can be the beginning of finding solutions for many work problems, social exclusion should be abolished and be included into productive work procedures. Disabilities should not be an obstacle for the work development of people, but although they have all the qualifications, they find the doors closed.

Thank you very much.