



RESOLUTION ON THE SUSPENSION OF EUROPEAN UNION TRADE PREFERENCES TO BELARUS

The ITUC General Council, meeting at its 2nd Session in Brussels on 20-22 June 2007

- CONDEMNING** the persistent repression of basic trade union rights by the government of Belarus over a period of many years;
- NOTING** that trade benefits to Belarus under the European Union (EU) Generalised System of Preferences have as from 21 June been suspended by the EU;
- EMPHASISING** that sole responsibility for that decision resides with the government of Belarus, due to its failure to implement the recommendations of an ILO special Commission of Enquiry concerning violations of freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining;
- WELCOMES** this expression of the EU's commitment to supporting respect for core labour standards;
- EXPRESSES** its fullest solidarity support to the BKDP and all independent trade unionists in Belarus;
- NOTES** that the ILO Governing Body, at its November 2007 session, may give consideration to any steps taken by the government of Belarus to implement the recommendations of the Commission of Enquiry; and,
- CALLS UPON** the government of Belarus to implement in full and without delay the recommendations of the Commission of Enquiry, as a basis for ensuring full respect for fundamental workers' rights.
