

The fourth Alma Mater Congress, in session during May 17 – 19, 2009, in response to the following :

- The impact of the deep economic crisis on the education and research financing;
- The budget cuts effected by the current Government;
- The repeated promisses not carried to effect by the Government, which generated considerable mistrust in its capacity of maturely managing Romanian affairs;

Pledged itself to pursue the following directions for committed actions to be undertaken by the National Trade Union Federation “Alma Mater”:

1. to ensure the observance by the Government of all the clauses in the Agreement signed on May 6, 2009 as well as to observe the commitments of the Presidential Office in the Pact for Education;
2. to react immediately, if necessary, by resuming the work conflicts suspended when the Government pledged itself to meet the points stipulated in the agreements that both parts undertook to observe;
3. to watch over the Government’s commitment to regarding education and research as national priorities by allotting them adequate financing, not by mere demagogical discourse;
4. to ensure the active involvement of our trade union members for improving the quality of the higher education and resarch in Romania;
5. to increase the number of trade unionists affiliated to « Alma Mater »;
6. to develop Alma Mater’s international trade union links;

The Fourth Alma Mater Congress considers it a permanent priority to organize actions meant to impose, in full sight of the political decision factors, education and research as main solutions meant to make the economic crisis a thing of the past.

We consider that, in spite of the numerous responsibilities which the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation has, the trade unionist action deserve from the Ministry more than declarations of intention formulated between the acts.

The Congress disapproves of the practices which some university rectorates made recourse to, ignoring the social partner, and it also disapproves of the abuse of various kinds practiced by these administrations

The Congress delegates firmly disavow the following:

- the under-financing of the higher education and research;
- the inadequate place in the hierarchy proposed for education within the standard proposal for unitary norming of state-wages ;
- the tendency to politicize the Romanian trade unions or their actual submission to direct political influence;
- the absence of a real, responsible dialogue with the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, the Ministry of Public Financing and the Ministry for Labour, the Family and Social Protection;

The Congress considers that :

1. It is impossible to set up a qualitative education system without an infra-structure, and only by obtaining investment promises ;
2. The systematic discrediting of higher education leads to downgrading the ideas of high quality and value and to the replacement of these concepts by the permanent contestation of the educational and research activities;
3. The direct effect of the permanent delay in solving the didactic and non-didactic personnel's problems is the appearance of an unfavourable climate for deploying the educational activities;
4. **It is high time that the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation clarified its relationship with the National Council of the Rectors, an institution which ought to become a real partner in the social dialogue;**
5. The material and conclusions obtained from the seminar on "The Symbiosis of the Higher-Education and Research for the Durable Development of Romania", which had a high international participation (having been attended by the Pan-European Trade-Unionist Structure and the European Trade Union Committee for Higher Education and Research) represent a strategic plan that will lie at the base of a viable, efficient cooperation between the Government and the trade unions. These materials have been taken up by all the trade unions and they are to be disseminated among the grass-root members. Their implementation will be organized by the Regional Consultative Councils.