

5TH CMKOS CONGRESS
PRAGUE, 9TH - 10TH APRIL 2010

On 9th and 10th April 2010 the 5th CMKOS Congress was held in Prague, in the year when we commemorate 20 years of independent unions in our country. 373 voting delegates were invited representing 32 affiliated unions of the CMKOS. First day of the Congress - the day of elections of new leaders - 370 delegates (99.19 %) attended, the second day 350 delegates (93.83 %).

In its ceremonial part a video-projection documenting the key events of the twenty years history of the CMKOS was presented and the Congress was addressed by Czech and international guests: Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic Mr Miloslav Vlček, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Mr Petr Šimerka representing the Czech Prime Minister, Mr Michael Sommer, President of the DGB representing the General Secretary of the ITUC, Mr John Monks, General Secretary of the ETUC, and Mr Miroslav Gazdík, President of the Confederation of Trade Unions of the Slovak Republic.

The Czech President Mr Václav Klaus addressed the Congress by his personal letter.

The Congress was also attended by Chairman of the Social Policy Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the CR Mr Zdeněk Škromach, Member of the European Parliament and former CMKOS President Mr Richard Falbr, who took part in the discussion as well as the representatives of former Strike Committees from November 1989.

Among the guests were representatives of Czech social partners - Confederation of Industry of the CR and Confederation of Employers' and Entrepreneurs' Associations of the CR.

The guests of the Congress also were Presidents of national trade union organisations of neighbouring countries - Mr Janusz Sniadek of Polish NSZZ Solidarność and Mr Erich Foglar of Austrian ÖGB, a representative of Polish OPZZ and representative of the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD.

The working part of the Congress was opened by CMKOS President who commented extensive written report on the CMKOS activities during past four years. The CMKOS Vice Presidents commented the parts of the Report concerning their spheres of activities.

The Congress discussed and adopted also the Report on the CMKOS Economic Management and Report of the CMKOS Auditing Commission and amendments to the CMKOS Statutes.

At the conclusion of the first Congress day the elections of CMKOS President, Vice Presidents and members of the CMKOS Auditing Commission were held. Mr Jaroslav Zavadil was elected the President of the CMKOS with 91,58 % votes. As new Vice Presidents were elected Mr Václav Pícl (59,78 %) and Ms Radka Sokolová (52,39 %). The Congress elected also 7 members and 1 substitute of the CMKOS Auditing Commission.

At the beginning of the second day of the Congress Mr Milan Štěch and Mr Zdeněk Málek leaving the CMKOS Executive thanked everybody for team work and appreciated the work of the CMKOS experts and staff.

The key point on the Congress agenda on the second day was the debate and adoption of the new CMKOS Programme of Activities for the years 2010 - 2014 which was presented by the new CMKOS President Mr Jaroslav Zavadil. The Programme is aimed at defending workers' interests in overcoming the consequences of the global economic crisis. Its aim also is to consistently stand against pressures on wage reduction, circumventing labour law, working time adjustments and reducing the level of social security.

When receiving the tragic news on the crash of the Polish President Lech Kaczyński's plane flying to Katyn the Congress observed a minute's silence to pay respect to the victims of this tragedy.

The Congress adopted its Resolution and Trade Union Memorandum to the Czech Employees in which it asks all employees to more perceive the legitimacy of the steps and efforts of trade unions at the time when workers are and will be - under the threat of the crisis - exposed to the pressure of precarious jobs and deterioration of working conditions. The Congress called upon trade unionists to vote in General Elections to be held in May 2010.

Prague, 10th April 2010