



Fédération Européenne des Cadres de l'Energie et de la Recherche, FECER

Singapore, April 28th 2017

Dear President Dranik, dear delegates and members of the Independent Trade Union of SE Ignalina NPP,

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the decision made by managers and specialists of Ignalina NPP to voice their joint interests beyond conventional structures in the aftermath of a series of events which shook the global political order.

Please accept the sincere congratulations of both the FECER steering committee and its member federations for your achievements during the past quarter of a century!

For your memories:

three years earlier, the fall of the Iron Curtain that had divided two confronting political systems for around forty years, took place in a truly peaceful manner
two years earlier, re-unification became reality in Germany where in the Eastern part a massive, peaceful movement had gathered pace following the notions of “Perestroika” and “Glasnost” by the then Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev
one year earlier, i. e. on December 25th 1991 the Soviet Union fell apart, in fact the final step of a union-wide development which in Lithuania encouraged the leading political party as well as the Sajudis movement to call for independence.

As a consequence of this independence, Ignalina NPP, Lithuania's former pride and backbone of indigenous energy supply, became a liability for various reasons. It was in this exciting but also somewhat bewildering situation of transformation, when determined and strategically minded personalities from Ignalina NPP decided to form the Independent Trade Union, whose 25th anniversary we are allowed to celebrate to date.

Following the decision by the Lithuanian government to become member of the European Union, Ignalina's fate was decided, bolstered by massive compensation from the EU as well as by access to its structural and investment funds. Implementation of this decision, i.e. gradual shut down and decommissioning is a lengthy process lasting twenty years and more which has an impact on the country's economy and, even more important, on the socio-economic development of Eastern Lithuania.

It goes without saying that the interests of managers, specialists and workers of Ignalina NPP need to be represented by strong, independent entities in order to ensure the region's structural change in a socially acceptable manner. To that extent, there is a great deal of experience across Europe how to design such a process, e. g. the phasing-out of the coal industry in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Germany during the past fifty years.

Nonetheless, the interaction between government, regional and municipal administration during such a process as well as between public and private stakeholders is unique in each country and requires experienced employees' representatives who have the full trust and backing by their members.

As far as the European dimension of Ignalina NPP's fate is concerned, right now we are facing an additional challenge after last year's Brexit vote in UK and noises inter alia in France to leave the European Union.

This means finally, that the prospects of the Ignalina region and its population - namely the power plant's former employees and the decommissioning project's current managers, specialists and workers – hinge also on strong employees representations such as the Independent Trade Union of SE Ignalina NPP.

Dear Mr President, dear delegates and members,

despite the fact, that your federation is the youngest and probably the smallest member organisation of FECER, you are facing the most difficult task and challenge among all in representing an instrumental stakeholder in the transition process of the Ignalina region.

On behalf of FECER and its member federations, I wish you all the best, in particular skillfulness, persuasiveness and endurance along with a strategic vision, when shaping the region's prospect in parallel to successfully conducting the decommissioning project.

Yours sincerely,



Thomas H A Schneider
- President of FECER -