



Visit the IMF information displays about IFAs and asbestos in the congress foyer

Delegates view displays at opening

During lunch please spend some time taking in the displays in the coffee area on issues which are priorities for the IMF and its affiliate unions. The displays are translated into English, German, French, Spanish and Russian.

The first highlights the world's biggest industrial killer, asbestos. It kills one person every five minutes. The digital image unveiled yesterday illustrates why urgent ac-

tion is needed to ban the use and production of asbestos. Please visit the display and take your opportunity to post a letter of protest and call for the end of its use.

The second display focuses on IFA's and the work the IMF is doing to promote them. There are printed copies of signed agreements in English, German, French, Korean and Spanish for you to take away.



IMF colleagues at the information desk will be happy to answer your questions.

IMF CONGRESS News

The bulletin for the IMF World Congress is produced by the joint IMF & GMT congress communications team.

The bulletin, distributed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, is published in English, German and Spanish.

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Photos: Gisela Ortner



Lunch Options

At the ACV

EUREST

Lunch will be available from the EUREST restaurant, located on level 01 in the ACV.

Outside the ACV

Donauzentrum

Just nearby is the "Donauzentrum" Shopping Centre and Restaurants:
Address:

Wagramerstrasse 81/2/3

1220 Wien

Getting there:

Take the underground on line U1. The station closest to ACV is "Kaisermühlen-VIC", which is a short walk away. Take the train in the direction of "Kagran" and get off at "Kagran".

ISOLA

Or you could try the restaurant ISOLA near and on top of the Donauturm.
Address:
Donauturmstrasse 4

A-1220 Vienna

(Danube Tower)

Getting there:

This is a short walk away behind the ACV (you will go through the surrounding park). The fare to the top of the tower is 5.30 euros.

Danube Island

On Danube Island – Copa Cagrana, one stop from ACV underground station on U1 in the direction of Reumannplatz. You'll find different kinds of open air restaurants.

IMF CONGRESS News #1

MONDAY
22 May 2005

Bulletin for the 31 IMF World Congress, Vienna 2005



The 31st IMF World Congress is opened

800 international delegates attended the opening of the 31st IMF World Congress yesterday in Vienna.

The theme of "Advancing Workers' Rights" worldwide was introduced through an opening ceremony comprised of global video images, music, live dance performances and remarks by Austrian president Heinz Fischer.

The Congress will address jobs outsourcing, safe workplaces and social justice. GMT president Rudolf Nürnberger stated: "We are challenged today to develop workers' and trade union rights in emerging countries, while at the same time defend them daily in our developed industrialized countries." IMF president Jürgen Peters and general secretary Marcello Malentacchi also greeted the delegation.



Women's rights under globalisation

On the day before the 31st World Congress of the International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF) in Vienna, the IMF held its women's conference.

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China and the IMF: Executive Committee makes declaration on engaging with Chinese workers

PAGE 3



Let the Congress begin!

Today features discussion on the Secretariat Report, changes to the IMF Rules and elections.

09.15

Secretariat Report

IMF general secretary Marcello Malentacchi reports on what has occurred since last Congress.

13.30

Changing IMF Rules

Proposed changes to the IMF Rules will be discussed and moved for adoption.

15.30

Elections

The positions of President and General Secretary, and members of the Executive Committee and Auditing Committee will be elected for the next Congress period.



Fritz Verzetnitsch, President of the Austrian Trade Union Federation, addresses the delegates on Monday morning. He celebrated his 60st birthday on Sunday.

Highlights

IMF's eleven IFAs

Checkout the latest information on IMF's International Framework Agreements at the IFA display in the foyer adjacent to the Congress hall.

Tomorrow!

Keynote address

ICFTU President Sharan Burrow delivers the keynote address.

Full details

Please refer to your Congress programme for full details on today's events. Documents relating to the proceedings can be found in your Congress file or at your table. Congress information can also be found at the IMF website.

Declaration on China made by IMF Executive on Friday May 20.

The International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF) has decided to begin actively engaging with Chinese workers in multinational companies on trade union and human rights.

The decision taken by the IMF Executive is in response to the significant impact China's increasing economic influence is having on employees all over the world.

Given the current structural transformations taking place in the country the IMF considers it urgent for China to fulfil international standards regarding worker and human rights.

During its meeting, the IMF Executive prepared for the 31st World Congress opening on Sunday and also welcomed five new affiliates to the Federation.

The new affiliates are:

- National Metalworkers' Federation of Romania (Solidaritatea Metal)
- Russian Aircraft Industry Workers' Trade Union (Profavia)
- Fédération Nationale CFTC des Syndicats de la Métallurgie et Parties Similaires (France)
- Federation of Metal, Machine and Electronic Workers – Lomenik – KSBSI
- Centrale National des Employés (CNE) ■

Central Committee, Saturday: Belarus AAM affiliate expelled from the IMF

For more than a year, developments within the Belarus Automobile & Agricultural Machinery Workers' Union (AAM) have alarmed the IMF.

At an extraordinary congress in 2003, the union's president, Aliaksandr Bukhvostau, was ousted in circumstances which seem to have been directed by the president of Belarus, Lukashenko. Against this backdrop, the IMF Executive Committee one year ago decided to suspend the AAM from IMF affiliation and to recommend to the IMF Central Committee to expel the union.

IMF President Jürgen Peters said at Saturday's Central Committee meeting: "Expelling a union must be the last resort. But we can not tolerate a trade union moving in an undemocratic direction." ■



Marcello Malentacchi, IMF

“ In our troubled times it is our solidarity that gives us hope. **”**



A panel discussion focused on the rights of women in the workplace

Women's rights under globalisation

Before the 31st World Congress of the IMF in Vienna, about 130 female representatives of metalworker unions discussed women's rights under globalisation.

Jenny Holdcroft, equal rights director in the IMF said that the changes in the IMF's structures still should be enforced. "Many unions don't use the potential women offer. To help them improve will be an important task."

In a round table discussion women from all over

the world reported: **Sanjyot Vadhavkar** from India said: "Women in export processing zones are being exploited. Getting into contact with them is difficult. We keep on that issue and we're beginning to have positive feedback."

Ann Donnellan reported that more and more women

in Australia work in precarious jobs. "The jobs have less benefits and many are not organised in unions." Emilia Valente from Brazil identified one positive aspect of globalisation: "At least the gender discussion takes place in the unions now." Speaking on working conditions, she said in Brazil women are working in jobs with small incomes and low security.

Fabienne Blanc-Kühn said that about 150,000 women

in Switzerland are in the manufacturing sector. "They have experience but no official certificate, so they are flexible, cheap workers." **Emilia Valente** talked about her unions decision to have 30 per cent women in all structures. "When men then tell me, the women do not want to participate I say: Wrong! They just did not get signs that their work would be welcome. That has got to change." ■

We asked 7 delegates at the IMF Women's Conference: How does globalisation affect women's work in your country?



"Globalisation creates levels of insecurity for women workers by increasing the rate of casualization in the manufacturing industry and by increasing the wage gap between men and women." **Anne Donnellan** (AMWU), Australia



"Free markets and globalisation cause women to easily lose jobs, because they can't compete in the labor market due to low education. Investors come with their own people." **Elizabeth Gabriel** (TUICO), Tanzania



"Globalisation threatens wages, hours and benefits of women in our industries because of the risk of job losses to countries that have lower conditions." **Leeann Anderson** (USW), USA



"Globalisation means an increase in women's unemployment and at same time more women are forced to work part time." **Ingeborg Adam** (GMT), Austria



"A typical example of how globalisation works are the Free Trade Zones, where very low wages are paid. The number of unemployed people increases and the situation for the employees gets worse." **Emilia Valente** (CNM-CUT), Brazil



"Globalisation means problems have to be solved internationally. It's impossible for problems to be solved on a company by company basis." **Chiaki Yokoi** (IMF-JC), Japan



"In Estonia European Works Council are being created now and we hope to involve in their work union activists in order to protect interests of our workers." **Ljubov Serova** (EMF), Estonia