

Consolidating the Commerce connection

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Fecomerciários and over 60 commerce workers unions of the State of Sao Paulo affiliate with UGT

Through an extraordinary assembly that took place on February 13, the Federation of Commerce Workers of the State of Sao Paulo - Fecomerciários, formalized its affiliation with UGT.

Along with this federation, more than 60 trade unions of commerce workers from several cities of the State also ratified their affiliation with the central. This way, UGT is now the trade union central that represents most commerce workers, representing more than four million workers of this sector.



"We are joining the central [and], we will be able to strengthen, even more, a work in defense of commerce workers, not only in the State of Sao Paulo, but throughout Brazil"

Luiz Carlos Motta, president of Fecomerciários

"We are going to show that, through this unity of action, we will reach a major unity of results",

Ricardo Patah president of UGT

The ceremony of affiliation of this federation and its affiliated trade unions was considered, by everyone who attended the meeting, a historical moment in the history of unionism. "We are joining the trade union central that is closer to the goals of our class. And through this unity, we will be able to strengthen, even more, a work in defense of commerce workers, not only in the State of Sao Paulo, but throughout Brazil", stated Luiz Carlos Motta, president of Fecomerciários.

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, recalled that the commerce workers class "is part of UGT's DNA". He also emphasized that UGT is a plural trade union central and that the affiliation of Fecomerciários and of new trade unions will strengthen even more the fight of this class.

"After an important achievement that took place with the regulation of our profession, we are stronger in order to fight for a unique national wage floor, against the high turnover of the segment, among other important fight ideals of this class. We are going to show that, through this unity of action, we will reach a major unity of results", stated the president of UGT.

With the motto "Consolidating the Commerce Unity", this event gathered more expressive leaderships, not only those of commerce, but also from several other professional classes that are part of UGT. (Joacir Gonçalves, UGT newsroom)

: **Pictures** : FH Mendes



Fecomercários: Strong and united with UGT

Election with 100% of votes and affiliation with UGT strengthen fights of Fecomercários

"Unity of action, loyalty and commitment". On February 13, this was the motto of our slate that elected the new board of directors of our federation with 100% of the valid votes. On the same day, we experienced another outstanding fact in the trade unionism: the affiliation of 64 trade unions with UGT.

Being unanimously reelected president of the most representative federation of our class in Brazil invigorates me to the fullest will to fight. Alongside other directors who, just like me, received 100% of trust of our federative staff, I assure you that I will spare no efforts to revert each one of these votes of trust in work and achievements that strengthen the trade union and labour structures of our affiliated institutions.

Why UGT?

Taking this democratic decision showed us a unique reason: suggesting the affiliation of our federation and its affiliated institutions that wanted to associate with a trade union central that increased our grassroots representation and whose DNA were truly concerned with commerce workers. There were no doubts, there was only one path: affiliating with UGT, a trade union central that gathers the most active classes of Brazil.



Under the presidency of the commerce workers Ricardo Patah, UGT acts all over Brazil with experienced and combative officers in defense of the rights of Brazilian workers. In order to give an example of this combative action, I hereby quote the tireless fight of the colleague Patah to achieve the regulation of the commerce worker profession. An achievement that will celebrate a year next month, on March 15, a date that we will celebrate together.

To my teammates who, like me, have given up important positions in trade union centrals in which they were affiliated, I hereby express my gratitude for another demonstration of collective spirit. I leave the position of 1st National Treasurer of the Força Sindical (the second most important trade union central in Brazil), a position that had already been occupied by the commerce worker Ricardo Patah, because I'm sure that, once we are affiliated with UGT, we are going to invest in strengthening the political demands of the central, whether they are commerce workers claims whether they are claims of workers in general, such as a reduction of working hours for shift work, the end of the Social Security Factor and the increase in outsourcing .

We believe that by affiliating with this trade union central that already gathered the highest number of commerce workers in Brazil, we are going to leverage its power to mobilize and to fight. With our affiliation, I want to believe that UGT start to represent more than four million commerce workers in Brazil. I confess that our decision was considered bold by some commerce workers union leaders and trade unionists as well as by other classes

Optimistic and sure of the decision we've taken, I have no doubt that the more than 60 unions affiliated with the Fecomercários, come to UGT to fortify the ethical and innovative unionism that this trade union central practices to improve working conditions and the quality of life of the working class.

On behalf of the elected board of directors, I hereby express my gratitude. Thanks for the confidence. The commerce trade union movement in the state of São Paulo can be sure that we will exercise our new tenure based on unity of action, on loyalty and on commitment, as dictated by our motto .

Luiz Carlos Motta, President of Fecomercários

Distinguished guests at the FECOMERCÍARIOS Assembly

The following State deputies were part of the solemnity table: Davi Zaia (São Paulo), Severino Ramos (Pernambuco) and Zé Francisco (Pará), as well as the unionists Marcio Fatel (Fecombase), Elisabete Madrona (UGT Paraná); Vicente Silva (Federação dos Comercários do Paraná); Salim Reis (UGT's vice-president); Ronildo Torres (UGT Sergipe); Marcos de Holanda Moura (UGT Piauí); Edson Garcia (UGT Goiás); Walmir de Almeida Lima (UGT North and Northeast); José Rodrigues (UGT Belo Horizonte); Maria Bernadete; Mazinho (UGT Santa Catarina); Charles Fernandes (Cruzeiro); Emília Marques; Amauri Mortagua (Tupã); Oto Mata Roma (Rio de Janeiro) and Laércio Ribeiro (UGT's vice-president), Luiz Carlos Motta, president of Fecomercários and Ricardo Patah, president of UGT.



Read the full article of Luiz Carlos Motta at Fecomercários web

Youth employment did not improve

Unemployment and informal jobs affect young workers in Latin America

The situation of economic growth with employment that took place over the last years in Latin America was not enough to improve the employment of young workers, who continue to face a bleak situation in which unemployment and informal jobs persist, ILO warned today.

"We know that there is a preoccupation concerning the situation of youth employment. It is urgent to go through preoccupation to action", said Elizabeth Tinoco, ILO regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean, while presenting results of a study that shows that over the last years there was little change. "It is clear that the growth is not enough", she added.



The ILO director added that it is "not casual that young people defend street protests once their lives are marked by dismay and frustration due to lack of opportunities. This has consequences on the social stability and even on the democratic governability".

In Latin America there are nearly 108 million young people, out of which 56 million are part of the workforce, that is, who have a job or are looking for one.

The report on "Decent work and youth: policies for action", which compares data from 2005 and 2011, emphasized that, by the end of this period, the youth unemployment reached 13,9%. Though the rate decreased 16,4% compared to 2005, workers aged 15 to 24 continued to face a hard time while trying to find a job, and even more while trying to find a good job.

On one hand, the rate of youth unemployment continues to be the double of the general rate and triple of the one of adults. Besides, youth represent 43% of the total amount of unemployment in the region, according to a study of ILO. On the other hand, the youth unemployment rate is above 25% when considering only the sectors of lower income, at the same time, it is below 10% for the ones of higher income. (*ILO news*)

Denunciations against Walmart at the Social Forum

Decent work in Walmart now! May Walmart respect the workers rights! May Walmart stop exploring workers and recognize their value!

With these questions, UNI Americas and its affiliated institutions in the commerce area in Brazil mobilized Porto Alegre, along with all the Brazilian trade union centrals, the National Union of Students, political parties and different social organizations. The nourished mobilization walked 5 kilometers under a bright sun and a 45 degrees temperature, which did not reduce, in any way, the enthusiasm of protestors.



"We want to have a dialogue with the president of this company in Brazil. All the attempts, so far, to find a reasonable communication path have failed. We want dialogue, but if this dialogue does not happen, we will continue to mobilize ourselves", said Jefferson Tiego, coordinator of the Trade Union Network Walmart UNI-Brasil.

"Walmart does not respect trade unions, it considers them an obstacle, and through this vision it makes mistakes that are dragging it to loose a battle after the other, since this very week there was an adverse flaw from the Labour Ministry of the United States", stressed Eduardo San Roman, director of UNI Américas Commerce.

Adriana Rosenzvaig, UNI Regional Secretary, directed her speech to protestors throughout the mobilization. "Our message to Walmart is clear: you are a paradigm of capitalist greed. You corrupt, destroy the environment, ignore trade unions and, in places like the United States, pay miserable salaries and prevent unionization and collective bargaining", said Adriana. "We fight for democracy with justice, and sooner than later, Walmart will have to understand that it must change its attitude". (Uni Global Union)



See the full report
(in Spanish)

See the main data
of the report (in
Spanish)

Roberto Santiago condemns violence and regrets



Santiago talks about black blocs and regrets the death of a cameraman in a protest

Congressman Roberto Santiago (PSD), national vice president of UGT, joined several other parliamentarians and commented on the role of black blocs and the tragic death of Santiago Andrade, a cameraman from the Bandeirantes TV station.

On February 11, the deputy made a tough statement about this event: "Every manifesto is legitimate, but this method of operation is totally inappropriate, not to say criminal, and I repudiate it. It is unacceptable that thugs are to infiltrate protests to propagate violence, destroying assets and public areas, injuring and killing people" said the parliamentarian.

"I deeply regret the death of the cameraman and sympathize with his family. Unfortunately, this case symbolizes the tragic violence against communication professionals engaged in covering protests. It is unacceptable that workers of communication, who are there to record and report what happens in the context of these acts, are exposed to this senseless violence that leverages public and democratic demonstrations to destroy public heritage spaces, to vandalize, injure and kill people", he concluded.

Lead contamination in Bahia

Roberto de Lucena hands in report to the minister of Social Welfare

On February 11, Federal Deputy Roberto de Lucena (PV/SP), national vice-president of UGT, handed in the final report with the proposal of detailing the serious situation of decades of lead contamination in the village of Santo Amaro da Purificação, in Bahia, to Garibaldi Alves Filho, minister of Social Welfare. This report was elaborated by a workgroup created in 2013 at the House of Representatives.

This workgroup, which was presided by the deputy, concluded a thorough report on the devastation caused by Cobrac (Brazilian lead company), subsidiary of the French Peñarroya Oxide in that region.

"We experienced, in that village, nothing but a crime against human kind. There is a responsibility that must be demanded of the city, of the State and of Brazil, because somebody authorized these licenses in order for this company to operate. In the evaluation of the parliamentarian, it is necessary to act whenever there is not a possibility to hold the company accountable which, according to him, is the fourth largest in the world and detains 25% of the world lead.



During the public hearing, deputy Roberto de Lucena requested minister Garibaldi a study on the possibility of guaranteeing a special retirement for contaminated workers. The minister, who was accompanied by a technical staff of the ministry, made a commitment to evaluate this case.

4th Health Conference of Workers of Sao Paulo

Geraldo Alckmin, governor of the State of Sao Paulo, and David Everson Uip, State Health Secretary, formalized the 4th Health Conference of Workers of Sao Paulo, which will take place from May 8 to 10, 2014, in the city of Sao Paulo.

In order to guarantee a spot in this conference, it is necessary to actively participate in the regional workshops which will take place in Presidente Prudente, Campinas, Santos, São José do Rio Preto, Ribeirão Preto and metro area of São Paulo.

The State Health Council will be in charge of coordinating and organizing these conferences.

[Take a look at the schedule of regional meetings.](#)

The União Geral dos Trabalhadores reaffirms its historic commitments to the working class, while seeking to expand its methods of action, with ethics, courage and the certainty that Brazil can be better and more just. " Ricard Patah – UGT's President

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