



## **Liviu Marian Pop, The General Secretary of the Free Trade Union Federation in Education (FSLI) is the new appointed Minister for Social Dialogue with the Romanian Government**

Yesterday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 2012, the President of Romania, signed the decree to appoint **Liviu Marian POP as the Minister for Social Dialogue**. This appointment not only shows the fact that the new Government of the Social Liberal Union considers social dialogue as the key element for the development and progress of our society (is 1<sup>st</sup> time in 22 years of democracy when a Govern include a Ministry on this domain), but also **the force and the esteem shown to the Free Trade Union Federation in Education in Romania**.

In the recent years, in Romania, we have had no social dialogue, while the center-right Government 'demolished' in a concerted manner everything which meant the unions and the civil society's informing, consultation and participation in the decision-making process. Through FSLI's ongoing actions, by organizing meetings and daily protests, submitting memos to the European and international organizations, through demonstrations of the civil society, we have managed to change this Government.

On his appointment, Liviu Pop stated that he hoped to manage to unblock social dialogue in Romania. He mentioned that for his term as an appointed minister he had three main goals, the first of which was to unblock the activity of the Economic and Social Council, where the government component needed to be replaced by the civil society. The second goal mentioned by Mr. Pop is to reconsider the three-party agreement concluded in 2008, which has not been adhered to. *"As a government we have the duty to adhere to the three-party agreement of 2008 which has not been adhered to. We need to re-analyze it in order to apply it"*, Pop said. The third goal is to conclude a social agreement between representatives of employers, unions and the civil society. Liviu Pop also said that the Law of social dialogue needed to be re-analyzed and reconsidered in order to be applied. Here are some other goals of Mr. Liviu Pop after the appointment:

1. Return to the salary level in June 2010 for state employees whose salaries were reduced by 25%;
2. Concluding labor contracts in all activity sectors;
3. Un-freezing jobs in the state system;
4. Correcting the law on social dialogue;
5. Observing court decisions.

***Other significant goal of new Minister Pop is to set up a dialogue mechanism with the European Commission and political leaders and representatives of European and international institutions in this area.***

Mr. Liviu Pop is a teacher of Mathematics, born on May 10th 1974, in Viseu de Jos - Maramures, and the youngest minister in the social-democrat Government headed by Victor Ponta, and since 2007, he was the General Secretary of the Free Trade Union Federation in Education. *"The minister position holds no political significance for me. I am independent! I have accepted this mission as a union leader and will leave it as such. I would like to warmly thank my colleagues in the Free Trade Union Federation in Education board who supported me in taking this decision. I hope I will not disappoint them and to be closer to them in my new position. I wish to be a minister of the unions, employers' associations and civil organizations!"*, Mr. Liviu Marian Pop stated.