

The culture of peace today, according to the FLC CGIL, is an absolute priority. The Recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on the Teaching Profession were launched in early 2024, in the face of extraordinary global events undermining the integrity of the planet. They were drawn up, in fact, in the awareness that education is not a marginal element in the construction of a more livable world. The 59 recommendations are ambitious and progressive, recognizing that the future of humanity depends on effective public education, provided by strong and valued faculty and staff. For this to happen, it is urgent in Europe to end the long season of austerity, implement macroeconomic and national policies to strengthen state investment in public education, as proposed by the campaigns Go Public! Fund education! by EI and the strike of education workers called FLC CGIL on the 31th of October in Italy. These proposals aim at two objectives: the quality of the systems and the quality of employment.

While governments around the world spent an average of 6.2% more of their budgets on weapons in 2023 than in the previous year, poverty and inequality are increasing globally. The conflict in Ukraine has been joined by the conflict in the Middle East. Now it is necessary to put the victims at the centre, to stand up for the people, to guarantee assistance to the oppressed populations, and to ask the institutions not to react with weapons and to resume the path of negotiation.

Yet, in order to build peace by enhancing the function of education systems, it is essential to make choices in the phase of budget laws, in the phase of Community and international policies and, for this reason, we ask the Ministers of Education of Europe and the European Commission to give substance to the proclaimed centrality of the school.

During the ETUCE Conference, together with EI, we must put forward specific proposals to strongly affirm that another world is possible and that it is necessary to start again from peace.