

Date: May 9, 2016

Amsterdam

Dear members of the ETUC Youth committee, dear members of the ETUC Secretariat,

Labour unions are beautiful organizations, with rich histories filled with perseverance, courage and hard work of men and women, for which I'm thankful towards the generations before us every day. Every day I see powerful and hopeful unionists, working hard for a better future for the working population, and every day I see how international cooperation between unionists is now more relevant than ever, and more so specifically when it comes to international cooperation between young unionists, for example because individualisation and polarisation are issues that are growing daily. We see that real jobs for young people are becoming replaced by exploitative situations with unfair and unpaid internships and insecure contracts and we also see that this is even more true for some specific groups, like migrants and women. Here I see a serious task for the labour unions to offer a solid counterweight to these developments.

For the first time in years we've seen a slight growth in youth memberships in our labor union (FNV), and that's great, but we can't take this growth for granted, because in the past years we've seen a fast decline in memberships. In this decline, I see a responsibility for not only the older generations, but more specifically for us, young people who do decide to come to action in a labour union. It is for us to continue the good work on for instance wages and fair work conditions and to make labour unions stronger and more relevant than ever.

Decisions that are being made on European level are becoming more and more important these days, also on national level, and I want to make sure that the voice of the young workers is heard as well as possible. And due to the fact that I think that I can be of use to this process because of my experience in and love for labour unions and its practices, and feel strongly connected to the future existence of labour unions, I hereby would like to present myself as a candidate member for the ETUC Youth forum bureau, as a representative of the English speaking region. For a broader view of my present and past work I would like to kindly direct you to my CV.

I would love to continue Lauren Usher's great work on the Ad hoc Committee on Organizing and on the Women's Committee. I'm looking forward to share experiences and come up with great ideas on these topics, because it's a great connection to my own passion and activities for the women's rights movement in the Netherlands and to the great experience that I had with, amongst others, our Young and United campaign against the low minimum youth wages in the Netherlands. What I see as a core task for the ETUC Youth Forum bureau is to stay firmly connected to all members, so that all the members of the ETUC Youth Forum can make use of what our great European network has to offer, for that, proper and transparent communication is essential. Next to that, I believe that all the members of the ETUC Youth forum have a lot of knowledge to offer on different topics, I would like to invest my time and efforts together with all the bureau members to make sharing knowledge even easier and more fruitful! I'm looking forward to work for and with all of you to make the voice of the young workers in Europe heard as loud as possible!

Of course you can always contact me if you have questions or if you require any references for my application. You can contact me by sending an email to kristina.vandermolen@fnvjong.nl.

In solidarity,

Kristina van der Molen