

Interview Iuliu Winkler, MEP: Romania needs stability and credibility in Brussels

(AGERPRESS)

(fragment related to UNIFE extracted from the interview and translated from Romanian)

(...)

AGERPRES: You participated in Bucharest, at a meeting of the European Rail Industry. What was the message from the European Parliament for the participants?

Winkler: We are going through an extremely dynamic period in terms of global trade. In the European Union, but also in the world, the multilateral trade negotiations, the negotiations between the EU and global partners like China, Japan, the United States are a priority for several reasons. We are about to overcome the crisis but we need more jobs in general, especially for the young generations. The European industries are facing an increasing global competition; in this context they expect the European Commission's negotiators to represent their interests in a more effective way.

The event at which I was present in Bucharest was organized by UNIFE, the organization representing the European Rail Industry. The rail industry represents an important sector, with a strong presence in Romania. The rail industry provides around about 400,000 jobs at EU level, out of which 25,000 in Romania. The conference was dedicated to issues related to the future of both the rail industry and global competitiveness. We see that there are three categories of problems. The first is the increasing global competition on the railway market, with China becoming an important player. (...) The second category is the competitiveness of the European industry when we are discussing in regards to the global markets both in the negotiations with US through the *TTIP*, but also the ones with China or Japan. Thirdly, the railway industry aims at ensuring market access and access to public procurement markets of partner countries. In this regard, I presented the position of INTA, but I also explained that from my point of view, we are dealing with a new stage in the global trade. 20-30 years ago, we had national economies protected by internal rules, by custom duties and other taxes. In this new world of global trade, the end user meaning the citizen, together with activists groups, environmental groups and human rights groups, have a much more powerful voice requiring more transparency in negotiations, and the disclosure of the effects that these might have on the daily life of the citizens and in regards to the environment. On top of this the climate change topic is becoming more and more present during the discussions. In conclusion a new world where transparency means activism, and where the activism of civil society should be matched by the activism coming from the European industries. We need a change of mentality, we need citizens to realize that jobs come from a responsible industry, that economic growth can only be achieved by sitting at the negotiating table, and not to look at the industries as an enemy but as a partner, because industries are not the enemies of the citizens or of the governments.

UNIFE has member companies in Romania and these companies must understand that they must be present and must explain to the population which are the needs of the industry as well as the conditions under which the industry can grow and create more jobs in the future. The topic is very broad, but together with EPP, the political party which I belong to, I am convinced that the legitimate interests of the industry must be represented in trade negotiations, and if the European Union will manage to reject domestically protectionist tendencies and to reach a common ground with the Member States the negotiations will be successful.

(...)

<http://www.agerpres.ro/politica/2015/06/21/interviu-europarlamentarul-iuliu-winkler-romania-are-nevoie-de-stabilitate-si-de-mai-multa-credibilitate-la-bruxelles-13-15-58>