

Vote

Near You



Helen CONEFREY

Dear colleagues,

Since January 2010, I am a Cooperation Adviser at the EU Delegation to Ecuador, responsible for a Sector Budget Support programme in the Education field.

I am a Contract Agent and was elected to the current CLP HU in March 2009. Since January 2012 I have acted as the interim President of this hugely important Committee. I am President of USHU, a trade union devoted to colleagues working in External Relations (EU Delegations & EEAS).

Previously I was a Temporary Agent at the ETF (Torino, Italy) where I was elected as the first female President of the local Staff Committee before leaving in 2004 to join the EU Delegation to Nicaragua .

Despite the fact that I have been involved in structured social dialogue as a Staff Representative since 1997, it seems to me that now more than ever there is an urgent need for a united and experienced Outside the EU Local Section. Delegations are by nature, disparate and far away from Headquarters. There are several staff categories (Local Agents, Contract Agents, Temporary Agents, Officials), Delegations made up of a handful of staff compared with those employing up to a hundred. Certain third countries enjoy reasonable living conditions whereas others are complex and insecure making even the simplest of daily tasks, both professional and private, a challenge.

My aim is to guarantee that all Delegation staff are treated equally and fairly; to ensure that the rules established by the Commission regarding staff are fully respected at all times; to convey the concerns and complaints of colleagues and to provide advice on how to proceed in individual cases.

USHU has deliberately teamed up with **U4U, R&D, Conf-SFE, FFPE** and **SID** to form a formidable alliance in the interest of staff. We will combine Delegation know-how with skills at Headquarters and continue to strive for the best possible results.