MEDIA RELEASE

NEWLY ELECTED ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL ADDRESSES INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF EMPLOYERS

Geneva, 30 May 2012

The General Council of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) was the first ILO constituent assembly to be addressed by the newly-elected ILO Director-General, Mr Guy Ryder, following Monday’s election, which saw Mr Ryder receive 30 of the 56 votes cast by the Governing Body.

Following a welcome introduction by Employer Vice-Chairperson, and IOE Executive Vice-President, Mr Daniel Funes de Rioja, Mr Ryder, who is currently ILO Executive-Director for International Labour Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, spoke of his longstanding relationship with the Employers’ Group, and of his conviction that the future of the International Labour Organisation relied considerably on the success of its engagement with representative employer and business organisations, and their enterprise members.

In his well-received address, Mr Ryder said, “it is incumbent on the ILO and its leadership to do everything possible to make sure that the ILO is relevant to business, is useful to business and reaches out to business:” Assuring the employers of ILO cooperation, outreach and understanding, Guy Ryder also raised a challenge and called on the Group to match those extra ILO efforts with an equal measure from the employers’ side, to engage in the spirit of the ILO by sitting down together, and setting out for the Organization, with the utmost clarity, their perspectives and expectations. “Success,” he concluded, “would be achieved together, or not at all.”

Mr Funes de Rioja noted that, although the Employers’ Group had backed a government-proposed candidate, the time had now come to move on from the election process, and to look ahead to solving the challenges of the global employment crisis together, as a fully tripartite House in the spirit of consensus, “…we are ready to work together in a constructive way, and we give our new ILO Director-General our full commitment to do so.”

The Director-General elect will begin his five-year term in October.

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