**To establish a network of employees
in foreign missions worldwide**(to fight for labor, pension an union rights)
Through an exchange of ideas among union leaders from Brazil and France, we learnt about the worker’s committees formally established by the European Union in multinational corporations with more than 1,500 employees and present in another country with at least 150 employees.
This inspired us to transfer this model to our reality of local employees at embassies, consulates and international organizations, which also are present in many countries and comply even less with local labor, pension and union laws foreseen in International Conventions.
The idea is to create an informal network (through one of the main social media) with linking pins all over the world – we could call it the Missions Local Employees Network (MLEN), where the expression “missions” would stand for embassies, consulates and international organizations. “Informal network “  implies that no person or country acts as coordinator, as appropriate in social networks. The “linking pins” could be employees of any mission and more than one in number in each country.
The initial task of this Network could be:
1)      Identify linking pins fluent in English in all countries worldwide;
2)      Identify unions that represent local employees in foreign missions in each country;
3)      Feed information relevant to the main objective of compliance with local labor, pension and union laws, to the Network through the social media;
4)      Disseminate information about lack of compliance of these laws by the missions to the press and responsible government bodies – In Brazil we prepared a table indicating compliance and non-compliance with the main legal terms of the labor, pension and union laws of our country by all the missions established in Brazil;
5)      Identify laws and international conventions that can be used to file complaints – In Brazil, f.ex., we identified that ILO Convention 94 is an adequate basis to complain against UN Agencies under contract by the Brazilian Government to hire local employees without assuring them labor, pension and union rights. This is done under the umbrella of a International Technical Cooperation (ITC) Agreement, but there is no ITC whatsoever, since the human and financial resources are all Brazilian.
To start the operation of the MLEN, I kindly ask to send us at Sindnações (the Union that represents mission employees in Brazil) to imprensa@sindnacoes.org.br<mailto:imprensa@sindnacoes.org.br><mailto:imprensa@sindnacoes.org.br>. We then will establish an open and a closed group, inviting all linking pins to join these groups. After this, all members could take initiatives to make the network “run”.

**The InterSyndicale "Ambassades" in Brussels is very interested in your project. As you may know our team has helped establish a commission composed of representatives of several Belgian government agencies that will clarify the status of embassy staff, help individuals, and make changes to the existing legislation.  We have also created a web site that will help us reach out to a larger number of embassy workers.  The site will be tri-lingual French, Dutch and English.  Please have a look at French-language site at**[**http://www.myembassy.be**](http://www.myembassy.be/)**to get a general idea.  We should have the English-language equivalent ready in a few months.**

**I'll be your liaison with the InterSyndicale.   Please let me know in what way the InterSyndicale can contribute to your project.  I personally can be a linking pin.  Obviously, via the web site we can disseminate information to embassy workers.  I think we are already covering more or less what you want.**

**In solidarity.**

**Eddy Olislaeger**

**for InterSyndicale**

[**http://www.myembassy.be**](http://www.myembassy.be/)