

Dear Colleagues,

*As quickly as possible but as slowly as necessary*

On Friday, the 1st of May, the Union did not really know how to approach this revolutionary and confined May Day. But with their unfailing support, its members were able to transform this day into a beautiful Spring day of solidarity and commitment.

Human warmth transcended the distances between the 4 corners of the world, and this is in the same vein as your Union: all united together in solidarity

The Union would like to thank you all for your participation, your support and for playing the game. And none of this would have been possible without the unfailing collaboration of DCOMM. How good it is in this time of confinement to feel this camaraderie and these new forms of cooperation constantly renewed.

And it is full of hope that we are moving forward, albeit only in certain duty stations, towards a return to normality. Or rather, to keep in line with prevailing terminology, towards a *newnormal*. At Headquarters, for example, the RTO (Return To Office), a new flourishing acronym, will be "as quickly as possible but as slowly as necessary". We are aware of the efforts made by some of our colleagues, who are already hard at work, to ensure that the right balance is struck between a return to work *in situ* and the management of staff health risks. This is where Joint Health and Safety Committees normally take on their full meaning and importance.

On the work-life balance side (perhaps we should now call it juggling), in particular for some of you, the beginning of the end of confinement comes in the form of your children going back to school.

A plethora of questions on the matter must already be overwhelming you: the conditions for returning to school, the organization of working time, the health and safety conditions for you and your children. And with the end of the school year approaching, how will you manage without the possibility of assistance from grandparents, summer camps or day care centres? Will ILO teleworking find its place in this new normality

How will all this take shape?

Your Union is here to help you throughout this new phase. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions, or if you encounter difficulties or obscure situations. We will not fail to follow up on these and, as we have been doing for more than 2 months now, inform the administration so that the most appropriate measures possible will be taken or, if necessary, invented.

*P.S. An article on "How things are going in Asia and the Pacific" is available on our blog Union-magazine at <http://unionmag.ilostaffunion.org/telework-in-the-asia-and-pacific-region/>*