

## **Contemporary Motion: Threat to the rights of working people**

Conference is alarmed by the call from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development on 6 August for the government to consider banning strikes altogether, recognises that such an approach may be attractive to the right-wing extremists who increasingly appear to be driving the Coalition Government's agenda and urges the Labour Movement to use the opportunity presented by John McDonnell MP's Private Member's Bill - the Lawful Industrial Action (Minor Errors) Bill – to present the case for progressive and modern trade union law.

Conference notes that the Bill is now scheduled for debate in the House of Commons on 22 October. Conference notes that the democratic votes of trade union members for industrial action have been challenged by injunctions in the courts on minor technicalities in a series of cases. The Bill would prevent trivial and minor technical errors in a trade union ballot, or in notices to employers about the result, from being used to invalidate the whole ballot.

Conference notes that British law already imposes draconian restrictions on unions in relation to ballots compared to other European countries and believes that legislation governing industrial relations should be clear, simple, transparent and consistent with the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Social Charter and International Labour Organisation conventions.

Conference therefore calls on the Labour Party and the wider labour movement to make the case for wide public support for these principles, supports the Bill, and encourages all Labour MPs to vote for the Bill in Parliament.

(248 words)