



GENERAL STRIKE 14 NOVEMBER 2012

In Portugal, the CGTP-IN – General Confederation of the Portuguese Workers, Intersindical Nacional, is promoting a General Strike on 14 November 2012, under the following motto:

AGAINST EXPLOITATION AND IMPOVERISHMENT

Changing Policy – For a Portugal with a Future

The objectives of this General Strike are:

- Fighting the measures contained in the Draft 2013 State Budget
 - **Against the brutal taxes increase** that provokes a cut of income, in salaries and pensions, which is even higher than in 2012 (3.1 billion euros more, in salaries and pensions);
 - **Against the cuts in unemployment benefits, in sickness pay and other welfare allowances;**
 - **Against the destruction of the welfare state** (Social Security, Health, Education, Transport); **against the overwhelming destruction of jobs in public administration** which brings with it the dismantling, degradation and higher cost of the public services provided to the population;
- Defending labour and social Rights
 - **Against the increase in the number of “unpaid” working hours**, done through the elimination of holiday leave, public holidays and rest days
 - **Against working time deregulation and non-payment of overtime**
 - **Against easier and cheaper dismissals**
 - **Against the increase of precarious work and cuts in the protection of the unemployed**
 - **Against the destruction of collective bargaining**
- Demanding answers to the problems of the workers, of the unemployed and the pensioners

- **Increase salaries;** demand an emergency programme to **fight unemployment;** demand **better public services and welfare state measures** (Education, Health, Social Security and Transport).

Unemployment already hits 1.4 million workers; there are more than half million unemployed youth and over 1 million workers only hold casual labour contacts

- The cost of living goes up while wages come down; **around 500 thousand workers earn the national minimum salary** (432 euros net)
- **The weight of wages in the GDP is 39%** (2008) having been **59%** (1975);
- **1.3 million Portuguese are poor** (income under 434 euros)
- We are one of the EU countries with worse working conditions, also reflected in a higher work accident and hazards rate
- Labour costs have grown less than the average in the EU countries
- Annually we work more hours (1719) than the average of the EU/15 (1703)
- We are one of the most unequal EU
- More than 1 million old people survive on misery pensions (200 to 300 euros)

Therefore, there are many sound and deep reasons for workers to raise their voices and fight against an austerity policy and a course of real impoverishment, social and civilizational regression and our country's decline, fighting also for an alternative policy that assures sustainable economic growth, the creation of jobs with rights, solid public services and social protection serving the population.

This is why this General Strike does not have a symbolic nature. Instead, it is taking place in a moment of violent capitalist offensive, therefore this General Strike reflects the sharpening of class struggle and it results from the widespreading and intensification of the struggle of the working class and workers in general against the capitalist system. It thus entails a very important political significance:

- Stopping recessive policies. Demand the renegotiation of the debt, of its deadlines and interest rates
- To put and to the "Memorandum of Understanding" with the foreign troika. To defend national sovereignty
- To defeat the right wing policy. To adopt a programme of development for the country.
- To defend a new course for Portugal

The offensive of capital is global, resulting in an unprecedented austerity and attack on workers and people's rights, across Europe and the whole world, that we must continue to fight.

This is translated into the growing momentum in the workers' struggle in Europe, and the European Day of Action and Solidarity, on November 14th, is a concrete example.

It is necessary and urgent to organise and enhance, in an increasing way, with an orientation of class and with the masses, the struggle of the workers, the trade union movement and the peoples against the measures of austerity, recession, impoverishment and regression.

It is imperative to change course, for it is possible, with the workers and people struggle, to build an alternative, and attain a new policy.

We call on all trade union organisations from other countries to convey, on November 14th, their solidarity with the Portuguese workers struggle and their general strike.

At the same time, we convey, on this action day, the fraternal solidarity of CGTP-IN and of the Portuguese workers to those who, in Spain, Italy or Greece are organising general or partial strikes and stoppages, as well as to all other trade union organisations that, in Europe or in the world are promoting different types of protests, actions and mobilizations, reaffirming that we may continue counting on the CGTP-IN in this struggle that belongs to all and is for all.

Solidarity and Struggle!

Fraternal Regards

**Secretário de Relações Internacionais
Comissão Executiva**