



Μέλη της SEK  
Members of SEK

**Address of The General Secretary of SEK Mr. Nicos Moyseos  
at the FERBA- ETUC Conference in Larnaca on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2012**



OYEEKA - OEXEKA

**Dear Sister General Secretary of ETUC, dear Permanent Secretary of The Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, Colleagues and friends,**

It is a great pleasure for me in being present and addressing this Conference which takes place at an extremely crucial period both for young people as well as for pensioners.

The global financial crisis at its full length has negatively affected all social groups without any discrimination or exceptions.



The undermined financial development has contributed in increasing unemployment causing serious disturbances in the society, while serious problems do threaten on a constant and daily basis the well-being and robustness of both the Cypriot and the European economy.

**Dear friends,**

Despite the fact that Cyprus had traditionally enjoyed conditions of full employment and unemployment rates of about 3%, today it faces a real unemployment nightmare.



During the first half of 2012 the number of unemployed people reached 48166 or a percentage of 11.1% of the labour force. An analysis of the characteristics of unemployed people, indicates that unemployment rates regarding young people of the age 15-24 years are the highest ones, reaching 26.7% of the labour force among this age group.



OYIEK - OYIEK

Unfortunately, currently young people who are off the labour market are those suffering the most, together with 50% of pensioners who are below poverty threshold. At the same time, the welfare state and its social character is shrinking dangerously since due to limited funds available it is unable to support the vulnerable groups of the society.



OYIMETSEK - CCWMF

In order to meet challenges and face all these negative phenomena, solidarity is needed amongst both the citizens and the E.U member states.

Therefore, this Conference in Larnaca gains even more importance and validity since it sets solidarity as one of its main targets.



OYIK-FCEC

In Cyprus the current situation seems to be even more complicated since in addition to the income expected to be gained by the Troika Memorandum, we need to collect additional income from the million of Euros belonging to the state being uncollected, as well as in relation to tax evasion in order to support and strengthen the social welfare state.



OYMEPEGE - OYMEPEGE

Moreover, we need to demand and promote growth and the creation of new employment positions and being innovative in new policies for placing young people in the labour market. We need to highlight the fact that we do not have the right to step back being inactive and loose a whole generation of young people, the majority of whom have high level academic qualifications, but currently being in desperate disarmament.

In addition, we highlight that through the support of public income we should get the opportunity for new funds in supporting and strengthening policies directed towards pensioners. People in the so called third age have the right to dignity and decent conditions of living. It should go without saying that the government and the state in general have to offer these opportunities to a full extend.

As trade unions we are particularly sensitive in the need for the existence and well functioning of a social and welfare state. A social state based on mutual respect and solidarity among peoples. We want a social Europe in which North Europe under certain conditions and safeguarded prerequisites will support people in the European South who are suffering the most as a result of the ongoing financial crisis.

At the same time, we support the policies proposed by the ETUC against measures related to tough austerity and which have proved in practice that they bring about negative results and strengthen depression and inequalities. Austerity measures do not lead neither to progress nor to welfare and of course not even to growth which is the utmost need in demand.

With these simple and sincere thoughts for information and to be taken into concern, I would like to thank you for being here and I call upon you in order to join forces in constructing social Europe which we deserve.

Thank you.