

GSEE AND ADEDY CALL GENERAL STRIKE ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2012 TO SAVE THE COUNTRY STARTING FROM ITS PEOPLE

GSEE and ADEDY have called a **nationwide 24-hour strike on September 26, 2012** to protest the proposed new anti-labour, anti-social austerity package that will again severely hit the working people and the pensioners of Greece, and refuel the recession/austerity vicious circle that over the last two-and-a-half years has methodically pushed the country over the edge.

We reject the new austerity round comprising fresh deep cuts in wages and pensions, welfare slashes, tax hikes, thousands of public sector layoffs and express privatisations. We reject the pressure exerted by the Troika to further destroy labour and its institutions:

- A leaked 'confidential' Troika letter ordains the government to further reduce the minimum wage—slashed only last February to sub-subsistence levels—and establish "a single-rate statutory minimum wage on a permanent basis legislated by the government".
- Troika dictates include a six-day work week, longer working hours with an 11-hour minimum rest period for a five-day pay, a yet shorter notice period and less severance pay. Retirement age is to be raised to 67.

With wartime recession levels, 1.15 million Greeks without a job, youth unemployment at 54.9% and 30% of the population pushed below the poverty line, Greece since 2010 has effected the greatest fiscal adjustment among OECD countries over the last 30 years thanks to the impoverishment of Greeks, the destitution of pensioners and the demolition of the country's productive base along with its education, healthcare, welfare and social security systems. In the meantime, the country's entire labour legislation is destroyed, hard won labour rights smashed and the labour market derailed to appease the neo-liberal 'competitiveness' fixation.

The manifestly lethal IMF-EU-ECB formula has failed on every single target rendering Greece's sovereign debt unsustainable and propelling the country at an exponential rate towards economic and social collapse and political instability against a looming humanitarian crisis.

Yet more poison is underway to deliver new hardship on people and wreck the country with more recession. Instead of growth, jobs and prospects, once more devastation and slow death is handed to Greece. Instead of measures to combat tax fraud, reign the underground economy and undeclared work and control cartel manipulation of soaring prices, the government prepares to heap more suffering on the 'usual victims': the working people, the unemployed and the pensioners.

We reject the new outrageous devastation organised by the government and the Troika in a parody of "negotiation" to massacre any remaining social and labour rights. We respond by organising a prolonged struggle on all fronts to defend our rights, our lives and our families.

On September 26, 2012 the general strike will renew our pledge to reverse the dark route cast for Greece by the government at the behest its usurer-creditors.

In this unprecedented critical junction our first and foremost duty is to "save the country starting from its people".
