

# 29 February 2012

## EUROPEAN TRADE UNION ACTION DAY

### ON THE EVE OF THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT, THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS ARE SENDING A MESSAGE TO EUROPEAN LEADERS

# ENOUGH IS ENOUGH AUSTERITY DOES NOT WORK

The effects of the economic and social crisis have reached intolerable levels for millions of Europeans. Austerity measures are making the situation worse and are causing enormous social harm, as underscored by eminent economists, for that matter.

The most recent European statistics show that the unemployment rate has reached a record level, particularly among young people: in many countries, virtually one young person in two is out of work. 115 million people, or 23.5% of the population, are threatened with poverty and social exclusion. Inequalities are growing. Fear of what tomorrow might

bring is pervasive, leading to a nationalist reflex and the rise of the extreme right.

Confronted with the deteriorating economic and social situation, our leaders only response has been to ramp up austerity. On 30 January, a European Summit put the seal on a new international treaty that sets budgetary discipline in stone. The single currency necessitates economic governance, but the European trade union is opposed to this treaty which does not address the problems of employment and growing job insecurity and risks plunging Europe into a long term recession.

# FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE BECAUSE THE CRISIS MUST NOT SERVE AS A PRETEXT TO SELL OFF OUR SOCIAL SYSTEMS

We reject:

- The downward pressure on wages,
- The dismantling of social protection,
- Attempts to make the labour market even more flexible,
- The privatisation of public services,
- The reduction of pensions,
- Social exclusion,
- The unravelling of collective bargaining and the social dialogue,
- An unfair distribution of efforts: workers are paying the high price of a crisis they did not cause, while the world of finance and speculators are coming out unscathed.

# THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES BECAUSE EUROPE MUST BE BASED ON SOLIDARITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL COHESION

The European trade union is calling for a European recovery plan that gives priority to investment for sustainable growth, quality jobs and social justice while combating inequalities.

We propose:

- A European recovery and investment plan for quality jobs,
- A dynamic European industrial policy geared towards a low-carbon, green economy and the sectors of the future that will bring jobs and growth,
- A restoration of the budgetary balance over the long term,
- A guarantee for quality jobs for young people,
- A pooling of the debt through Euro bonds,
- A financial transactions tax which will also support investment policies
- The intensification of the fight against social and wage dumping,
- The harmonisation of the tax base with a minimum tax rate for companies,
- Respect and guarantee of fundamental social rights,
- The fight against tax fraud and evasion.

# 29 FEBRUARY 2012

## EUROPEAN DAY OF ACTION

# Enough is enough Alternatives do exist

# FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



**European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)**

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