



**European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)  
Confédération européenne des syndicats (CES)**

**To the Ministers of Finance**

**Dear Minister,**

**The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) congress, now taking place in the city of Athens, calls upon you to immediately change course.**

**Brutal austerity, both in terms of public finance as in terms of wages, is not working but is instead undermining the economies of countries such as Greece, Ireland, Roumania....**

**Moreover, the crisis – which is first and foremost a financial market failure – is now being used as an alibi to provide European policy makers with the power to intervene in wages and national wage formation systems.**

**The congress of the ETUC urgently appeals upon you as minister of finance participating in the ECOFIN council meeting this evening and tomorrow to immediately change the logic of the financial bail outs, allowing the countries involved to grow out of debt.**

**When setting the mandate for the economic governance package, the ETUC also calls upon you to respect the autonomy of social partners as well as to take into account the fact that Europe has no competence on pay. Organizing wage competition by European institutions setting restrictive wage targets will not be accepted by the ETUC and its affiliates.**

**Attached is the full text of the ETUC's congress resolution.**

**Yours Sincerely,**

**John Monks**

**General Secretary of the ETUC**