EPSU General Circular № 76 (2011)
To all EPSU affiliates
To the members of the EPSU Executive Committee
To the Members of all EPSU Statutory Committees
To the Gender Equality Committee
To the Trade Unions journalists

Call for action in the week of 30 November 2011

Dear Colleagues,

The EPSU Executive Committee discussed the grave economic and social situation in Europe at its meeting 9 November 2011. Public service and public service workers are under pressure in almost all European countries with austerity measures effecting our members directly. Collective bargaining, the autonomy of the social partners and social dialogue are under attack in many countries in the Euro-zone, in the EU and in other European countries. To underline our concerns and in support of our demands the Executive Committee agreed to make EPSU’s common demands visible by:

- Organising actions in the week of 30 November 2011. This will give a signal to the Council of Ministers for Economic and Financial Affairs (30/11), Council of Ministers for Employment and Social Affairs (1/12) and the European Council (9/12). We demand a change of economic policy focused on investment and sustainable growth and strengthening Social Europe instead of demolishing it.

While we do not ask for mass mobilisation or strikes (although in several countries such action will take place!), we do ask for visible actions using the EPSU logos developed for our work against austerity (as the Portuguese example shows – see the attached picture):

- Depending on the situation, present a letter/petition with EPSU’s demands to your Minister of Finance and to the Head of the EU delegation in your country. It could be in the form of a giant letter or banner together with a gathering in front of these buildings.

- Clean the stairs of the Stock Exchange building in your Capital, getting rid of the greed of bankers and speculators. Several dozens of trade union activists with brooms and maybe some foam of the firefighters?

- Organise a support action in front of the Greek and/or Hungarian embassy focusing on respect for trade union rights.

REF. CFP/PSC/vv
Contact person: Pablo Sanchez-Centellas
Brussels, 15 November 2011
✓ A brief sit-in of hundreds trade union activists with the EPSU logos and your union flags on the main shopping street (similar to the Occupy Wallstreet actions)

✓ Etc etc. Unions have been very creative in developing the most appropriate action. A picture of each action will be published on an EPSU website to underline the overall coordinated approach. Unions should contact their local, national media to exploit the joint nature of the action.

✓ In several countries actions are already planned: public sector all-out strike in Britain, a national day of action for public services in France, piquets and concentrations outside EU buildings in Spain or Belgium, mass rallies, etc

We further ask

✓ Each union to have pictures taken in at least 5 work places in which the local union branch, works council or work place union representation holds up a placard or banner with a joint text and logo (plate with bone e.g) - No to austerity – for jobs and public services (with union and EPSU logo).

✓ Publish the common position in trade union journals and on union websites.

EPSU is also preparing two other logos for this Day of action and further campaign: “Hands off our trade union rights!” And “Make the bankers pay for the crisis!” We will provide you with them as soon as possible.

Please let us know of the action your union or group of unions is planning by November 24th the latest.

Contact persons in our office: Véronique Vandenabeele vvandenabeele@epsu.org or Pablo Sanchez psanchez@epsu.org 00 32 474 62 66 33

In Solidarity

Carola Fischbach-Pyttel
General Secretary

Attachments : - EPSU logo
- No to Austerity’ logo
- Call for joint action (EPSU Executive Committee, 8-9 November 2011)
- Picture from our Portuguese affiliates
- Press release