Emergency resolution
on the Spanish government’s proposals to reform abortion law

Proposed by FSC-CCOO, FSP-UGT, FES-CCOO, FITAG-UGT, FP-CGIL, STAL, CGT, FO, CFDT, UNSA, UNISON
Adopted by the EPSU Congress on 23 May 2014 in Toulouse.

The Spanish Conservative government has presented a bill to reform the current abortion law. If passed this legislation will take women’s rights back to the 1960s.

There is massive opposition to this bill across Spain. The government has suspended the parliamentary process afraid of the impact on the vote in the European elections.

Spanish affiliates fear that immediately after the election the government will resume the process.

It deprives women of the right to choose whether to carry on with her pregnancy. Only in very limited cases will this right be available and even then it will require that at least three experts approves her decision. This procedure implies that women are incapable of making decisions by themselves.

This bill will actually not prevent women from having abortions but, since austerity measures imposed by the Troika are having a particular impact on women, many of them will be forced to do it illegally, in unsafe and unhygienic conditions. While the better off will be able to travel abroad where they will be able to do it legally and safely.

The Conservative’s governments other polices are also contributing to forcing women back into the home, taking care of all the services that are no longer being provided by public authorities as a result of the austerity measures.

The combination of these policies and the draft abortion law is taking Spain back to the old patriarchal days of women as second-class citizens.

This raises questions about the fundamental rights of women, public health and public services. All of these are central issues for trade unions.

Therefore the affiliate organisations presenting this emergency resolution asks Congress to agree that:

1) EPSU writes to the Spanish government about this resolution and calls on it to withdraw the above mentioned bill on abortion.

2) EPSU informs the newly elected EU parliament about this resolution in relation to its debates on sexual and reproductive rights on the basis that the European Charter of Fundamental Rights highlights the principle of equal rights and equality but the above mentioned bill does not treat women as equals.