

## **Government attacks right to strike**

 [U.K.](#)

Unions have launched a campaign against the Conservative government's Trade Union Bill which, if passed, will seriously undermine the right to strike. The provisions include allowing agency workers to replace strikers and strict new rules on picketing. The major worries for the public sector are thresholds for ballots in "important" public services and a threat to facility time for trade union representatives as well as an attack on the check-off system where employers collect union subscriptions. The ballot rules would require 50% of members to turn out to vote and 40% of the entire membership to vote in favour of action (that amounts to 80% of those voting, on a 50% turnout). EPSU and PSI have written letters of protest to the UK government and EU Employment Commissioner Thyssen.

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