

# **Public service unions argue for alternative responses to the crisis**

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Leaders of public service unions from around Europe meeting in Brussels agreed that cuts to public sector pay, jobs and services were a narrow, inadequate and unfair response to the economic crisis. Union leaders pledged support and agreed to join in European wide mobilisation to promote quality public services, defend jobs and public service workers pay and conditions.

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the EPSU public services federation heard how pay freezes and pay cuts were spreading across Europe. Details were given of 17 countries, including five from Eastern Europe outside the EU, where pay freezes, pay cuts, job cuts and recruitment freezes were part of the fiscal consolidation strategies being imposed by national governments, often in line with demands from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund.

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