

Mr László Andor
Commissioner for Employment
and Social Affairs
European Commission
Brussels

Dear Commissioner Andor

The closure of the national public radio and television broadcaster ERT has been a shock in Greece and has sent shock waves throughout the whole EU. A lot of questions have been touched upon: the public media as an independent voice is a pillar of western democratic systems and has a permanent function of control and supervision of the other powers. Never before has such a case of quasi elimination of the media happened in democratic systems. Our task is not to find out who is responsible for this closure.

The closure shows that the information, consultation and participation rights of the staff, workers and journalists have been totally ignored. These rights are fundamental rights anchored in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The ETUC, together with its affiliated organisations, in particular the public service and journalist trade unions, demand action: it is not acceptable that public service workers and journalists are excluded from fundamental rights to information, consultation and participation. The Commission should analyse which European legislation has been violated by the closure of ERT, which fundamental rights have been disregarded, and evaluate whether infringement proceedings need to be taken against Greece in this respect.

We ask the Commission to take the necessary measures, in particular to revise the information and consultation framework to include the public service industries, and to strengthen I&C procedures and participation rights.

As a decade ago in the Renault-Vilvoorde case, the European Commission is challenged to show that fundamental rights are at the core of the European project.

Yours sincerely,



Bernadette Ségol
General Secretary
European Trade Union
Confederation



Carola Fischbach-Pyttel
General Secretary
European Federation of
Public Service Unions



Mogens Blicher Bjerregård
President
European Federation of
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Cc: *President of the European Commission, President of the European Parliament,
President of the European Council*