

EPSU Executive Committee RESOLUTION

The European trade unions and the workers that we represent, consider unacceptable the continued attack to our rights, including the right to strike, collected in different laws, both at international and national level.

The right to strike is recognized, among others, in:

- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations.
- The International Labour Conference has insisted on the recognition of this right in its Member States and the special tripartite meeting in February 2015 reaffirmed ILO Convention 87 as providing the essential basis on which the right to strike can be asserted.
- Two bodies set up to control the implementation of ILO standards, the Committee on Freedom of Association and the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, have repeatedly recognized the right to strike as a fundamental right of workers and their organizations.

The right to strike is a fundamental right covered by Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights and 6 of the European Social Charter.

We believe that attempts to limit the right of the workers to strike are not isolated but are aimed at eliminating resistance and protest against austerity measures implemented during the crisis.

In this moment there are EU countries such as Spain and the UK trying to restrict citizens' rights and basic freedoms and curtailing fundamental rights such as the right to strike, by modifying their legislation, criminalizing protests and even applying measures of imprisonment for organizing or participating in a peaceful strike.

Such measures entail serious risks of abuse and serious threats to freedom of association. In other countries, such as Italy, the attack on the right to strike is made with specific interventions, eg considering the cultural heritage as essential services or, even more serious, militarizing the State Forestry Corps whose workers will lose all union rights, including the right to strike.

Therefore, we urge the European institutions to complete the process of EU access to the ECHR as is already enshrined in the EU Treaty and to take the legislative initiatives necessary to ensure and preserve the right to strike and other fundamental rights that give a meaning to the European Social Model.

Adopted by the EPSU Executive Committee on 19-20 April 2016
translated from Spanish by the Mediterranean constituency