

His Excellency Georges Papadopoulos,
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Brussels, 30 November 2011

EPSU Support for the General Strike in Greece on 1 December

The European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) expresses its full support for the further general strike organized by the Greek trade union movement.

The Greek trade unions once again mark their opposition to the unilaterally imposed austerity measures that have already created so much misery amongst the Greek population. Greek workers are supported by a wave of solidarity actions across the EU.

This strike action is to underline towards European heads of governments before their Council meeting that the exclusive focus on fiscal consolidation is the wrong policy and only adds to the problems of the Greek economy. Austerity does not create jobs, on the contrary it undermines the social balance within societies.

The European Commission adopted its Second Annual Growth Survey on 23 November, looking again at reforms of public administrations on purely economic terms without any consideration of developing quality public services which are so badly needed in these times of crisis. Public sector unions urgently demand measures promoting investment and growth to address the high unemployment in the European Union. We strongly plead for a different policy, away from austerity, precarious jobs and inequality towards more social justice and fairer taxation.

We urge the Greek government to enter a constructive dialogue with the Greek trade unions to prevent a further destruction of the economy and its social cohesion.

EPSU further demands the urgent introduction of the Financial Transaction Tax to be instituted in Europe, as a first step towards achieving a global FTT. EPSU argues for tax justice based on progressive taxation systems. Europe must abolish its tax heavens, fight corruption, tax fraud and corporate tax evasion.



Carola Fischbach-Pyttel
EPSU General Secretary



Anne-Marie Perret
EPSU President

EPSU is the European Federation of Public Service Unions. It is the largest federation of the ETUC and comprises 8 million public service workers from over 275 trade unions; EPSU organises workers in the energy, water and waste sectors, health and social services and local and national administration, in all European countries including in the EU's Eastern Neighborhood. EPSU is the recognized regional organization of Public Services International (PSI). For more information on EPSU and our work please go to: <http://www.epsu.org>