



Brothers and sisters,

PSI is here with a delegation of trade union reps coming from France, UK, Lithuania, Ghana and USA to bring the support of all the trade union movement, and especially from EPSU, to the fight of Greek unions and Greek people.

We are you to witness and expose to the rest of the world how deeply the austerity package imposed by the Troika is hurting people's lives and the overall social environment.

We have now evidence that what Greece is experiencing is deliberated attack on workers' rights, is the attempt to abolish the universal access to fundamental rights such as, education, healthcare, public water and energy.

It's the attempt to disregard the dignity of work and to impose unacceptable working conditions that bring the Greek society back to one century ago.

We firmly oppose the idea that workers have to pay for an economic crisis that has been created by the financial markets and the banks and that has been giving more and more profit to the few rich, depressing, on the contrary, the living conditions of the most.

We firmly oppose the idea that austerity is the only way to overcome the crisis, because it simply doesn't work.

Let's look at the real facts of Greece.

After five years of austerity all the indicators have been worsening dramatically:

GDP -4,7 (minus 1,5)

Public debt 161,4% (more than 30%)

Unemployment 27,4% (+ 17%)

Youth unemployment 62%!

At the same time the sale of public companies is not attracting significantly foreign investments, while contributing to increase unemployment.

This is the truth! The fact that in Greece only poverty is significantly increasing!

We call the shame on the IMF who recognises the fact that austerity doesn't work, that they have gone too far in imposing cuts on wages and public services, but who continues to pursue the same strategy.

We call the shame on the European Commission and on the European Central Bank, who are responsible for the most cruel plan to dismantle the social pact which had helped Europe to build a cohesive and peaceful society.

We call the shame on the several Greek governments who have been responsible for neglecting the internal condition of the country while the global crisis was expanding its effects.

We call the shame on the Prime Minister Samaras who is completely blind to the suffering of the Greek people.

Mister Samaras, IT's your shame impose cuts on wages and pensions, increase of taxes and fees, cuts in public spending without caring for people who is now unemployed, homeless, unable to access the healthcare, education for their children.

And Mister Mitsotakis, you are shameless when you proudly announce that you "reduced permanent staff in the public sector by 11%, provisional staff, the paradise of clientelism 50%. We reduced salaries in the public sector by 20%. All this in the last four years. 25.000 are entering into mobility scheme and if another post is not found for them they will be fired. 15.000 people will be fired by the end of 2014."

"We will close down whole unnecessary ministry divisions".

And what is worst is that the statement was made at a conference for "Business friendly Public Administration".

And you say the Greek society is supporting your efforts!

You will never have our support! YOU are the people to fire!

These are not figures for statistics, but people who are suffering.

These are persons with names and faces that we care about.

This is the sound part of the Greek society we want to protect: And we will fight for that.

Brothers and sisters, Greek workers are not alone: the whole international trade union movement will fight with you and we will never give up!