



European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU)

EPSU Press communication

EPSU demands another solution for the Greek people than austerity and more crisis

(9 February 2012) *“The European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) stands in solidarity with the Greek trade union movement”*, says **Carola Fischbach-Pyttel**, General Secretary of EPSU, on the eve of another 48h General Strike coming Friday and Saturday.

This strike is to demonstrate opposition against the proposal to reduce the minimum wage to 520€ and to abolish collective agreements. *“This is punishing those workers who have problems to survive. It is aggravating the social crisis and amounts to a form of social warfare from the top”* she adds.

The “catastroika” (the International Monetary Fund, European Central Bank and the European Union) also demands a reform of the pension system. Only when these conditions are fulfilled will Greece receive the 130 billion euros it needs to keep paying the interest of the debt to private banks.

EPSU calls on its European affiliates to send messages of solidarity to our Greeks colleagues in this moment of need. EPSU welcomes the protest organized outside the Greek embassy tomorrow initiated by Belgian trade unions at 5pm in Brussels.

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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 organizes 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).