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ETUCE

European Trade Union Committee for Education EI European Region

TO: ETUCE Member organisations in Spain: CIG-ENSINO, IFE/ELA, FETE/UGT, STEs-Intersindical, F.E.CC.OO, CSI-CSIF, FE-USO, FSIE

Brussels, 27 March 2012

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Subject: solidarity with the ETUCE member organisations in Spain

Dear colleagues,

The ETUCE wishes to express its full solidarity with its member organisations in Spain for their participation in in the general strike on 29 March 2012.

All Spanish unions have called their members to join this strong protest action against the labour market reform imposed on Spanish workers by the conservative government under Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy. At previous protest demonstrations the unions managed to mobilize hundreds of thousands of demonstrators in Madrid and many other cities.

During the last months the economic situation in Spain has sharply worsened. Unemployment has reached about 24%. Youth unemployment is particularly alarming and is running at about 50%. There is a real danger that a whole generation of young students will be deprived of their opportunities to find employment after school and they might lose the fair chance for a better future.

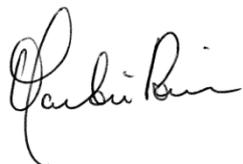
Economic and social discontent will only increase when Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy will announce up to 40 billion Euro budget cut on 30 March. Rajoy is under pressure from the European Union to propose the State Budget and to keep to the guidelines to reduce budget deficits. The Spanish unions are right to warn that these short-sighted measures could lead to a collapse of public education and other public services.

The ETUCE reaffirms its strong solidarity and support to its Spanish member organisation and wishes that the voice of all working people will finally be heard by the Spanish and European authorities. The ETUCE repeats that austerity cuts are highly unfair measures which offer no sustainable solution to the crisis. They only increase poverty and working people's anxiety about their

future. Cuts in the education sector will affect all other sectors in the long run when adequately skilled people will be missing to rebuild the economy.

The ETUCE wishes all its Spanish member organisations every success in your important work around the general strike for more social justice. Please, feel free to use this message with your members, with the Spanish authorities and with the media.

Kind regards,



Martin Rømer
European Director



Ronnie Smith
President

The ETUCE, the European Trade Union Committee for Education is the European Region of Education International. It represents 135 teacher unions in Europe, i.e. 12.8 million teachers from all levels of the education sector in 45 countries. The ETUCE is a social partner in education at EU level and a trade union federation of the ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation.