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General Secretary Christine Blower
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27 March 2012

Mr Mariano Rajoy
Prime Minister of Spain
Complejo de La Moncloa
Avda. Puerta de Hierro s/n
28071 Madrid
Spain

Via Email: admin@ministerios-es.com

Dear Prime Minister,

Support for Spanish Workers

I understand you will be announcing cuts and tax increases of up to €40 billion on 30 March, so as to reach the target deficit of 5.3% this year.

Already €15 billion worth of cuts in public spending have been inflicted on the Spanish people last year.

I fully support our Spanish colleagues in their 24-hour strike on 29 March.

Spain has the highest overall and youth unemployment rates in Europe. Cuts in public services will only lead to an even worse employment situation; Spain will then be trapped in a vicious cycle of worsening debt. The only viable long-term solution is job creation and education - essential to generate the growth that the country badly needs.

On behalf of our Spanish colleagues, we urge you to stop the spending cuts. The social costs of such a move will be immeasurable. Already, your country's poverty rate has jumped from 23.4% to 27% in the last two years and severe social exclusion has grown by two percentage points, to 18.6%, since 2007. Social services now help 8 million people, compared with 5 million two years ago. Short-term fiscal reduction is counter-productive to resolving the crisis that Spain is facing.

Yours sincerely

CHRISTINE BLOWER
General Secretary

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