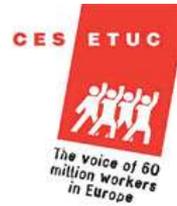




INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION



Mr Plamen Dimitrov
President, CITUB

Dr Konstantin Trenchev
President, Podkrepa

Sofia
Bulgaria

By e-mail

PERC/GG/pw

Brussels, 29 November 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The ITUC and ETUC are following with increasing concern the developments in Bulgaria in the last couple of weeks and are particularly disturbed by the explicit anti-worker and anti-union underpinnings of the policies of the government. At a time when the world and Europe in particular is facing the gravest danger of sliding into a new and deeper recession, the Bulgarian government has engaged in a massive assault on the labour and social rights of the working people, thereby undermining the social peace and the possibility for productive social dialogue – a key instrument for policy making in time of critical choices and decisions to be made. We would like to remind the government that the financial indicators of the Bulgarian economy that the government is so proud of are also the result of this same social peace achieved through the social dialogue which has been in the process of being disposed of in recent days.

We are seriously concerned about the blatant disregard for agreements reached by all interested sides through difficult compromises such as the policy on pension system reforms or in the railway sector packed with blackmail and threats against the fundamental labour rights of association and collective action. In any democratic society when the channels of normal communication and social dialogue are closed, the only way the people can have their voice heard and their legitimate demands considered is through direct action.

We would like to express the full support of the ITUC and the ETUC for your demands and actions against the attacks on your rights, your jobs, your living standards and chances for a decent life in retirement. Your demands are just, and they open ways out of the problems – ways that lead to a better future for the country and all its citizens.

We wish you all the success in the actions.

Yours in solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Burrow', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Sharan Burrow
ITUC General Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Ségol', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Bernadette Ségol
ETUC General Secretary
PERC General Secretary