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Brussels, 3rd February 2016

Dear Brother Panagopoulos

I am writing on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and its 180 million members over the world to express our solidarity for the nationwide general strike called by the Greek General Confederation of Labour (GSEE) on 4th February 2016.

The ITUC and its members express their strong support to your position and struggle against the government's unilateral decision to increase social security contributions without any prior discussion with workers and their representatives.

The Greek government by avoiding to consult with trade unions has violated the provisions of the ILO convention 144 on Tripartite consultation ratified by the country since 1981, which encourages social dialogue among social partners about any issue related to the world of work.

For many years, workers and population in Greece are paying a huge price with austerity policies measures imposed on the country that are worsening day by day their living and working conditions.

Thus, the ITUC urges the government to freeze its decision and to open effective social dialogue with workers' representatives, the only way to foster social peace and help to create an enabling environment for the realization of economic performance that can lift Greek people out of poverty.

The ITUC with all its affiliates reiterate their full support to your action of 4th February and will be watching closely the situation in the country in the coming days and will not hesitate to submit a complaint against the Greek government if any improvement is noticed.

In Solidarity



General Secretary

