



Trades Union Congress

Mr Antonis Samaras
Prime Minister of the Hellenic
Republic
Maximos Mansion
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Athens 106-74
Greece

our ref Samaras
date: 9 November 2012
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Sent by e-mail:
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Copy to Konstantinos Bikas,
Ambassador in London,
socialsec@greekembassy.org.uk

Dear Prime Minister

Austerity in Greece

Our sister organisation, the GSEE, has informed us of the structural labour market measures imposed by the Troika that have been passed by the Greek parliament on 7 November 2012. On behalf of the TUC, I would like to express anger and dismay about the contents of these measures, which will hit harder the weakest and will deteriorate further the dramatic social and economic situation in Greece.

The measures dictated by the Troika concentrate on new cuts in wages and pensions. They disregard and destroy the value of collective bargaining: indeed, the minimum wage will no longer be subject to negotiations but set by law and frozen at below subsistence levels together with long-service 'maturity' allowances. Working time and leave regulation will be imposed without any form of negotiations. The single remaining benefit attached to minimum wage, the 10% family allowance, will be removed and will further impoverish workers, pensioners and their families. The new system precludes the extension of the protective framework of collective agreements to all workers and forbids any other allowance.

Such measures gravely affect not only Greece and its citizens but the whole of the European working population. Indeed such drastic cuts in wages and pensions, such flexibilisation of working time

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

and working conditions, and such disregard of the value of collective bargaining create a negative downwards competition for all workers in Europe.

The TUC strongly deplores and opposes these measures which flagrantly contradict key principles of the European Treaties (namely the horizontal social clause, upwards convergence of living and working standards, strict respect for national systems of industrial relations, etc).

The TUC recalls that Greece has already been scrutinised by the Council of Europe and has been found to have violated the 1961 Social Charter by a series of legislation enacted at the express demand of the Troika.

The TUC expresses its solidarity with Greek workers and with the Greek population undergoing the most unfair and counter-productive measures, imposed from the outside, and contravening the European Treaties.

We ask the Government of Greece to refrain from adopting the revised budget on 11 November as it will inflict further damage on already impoverished Greek workers and their families.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brendan Barber'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BRENDAN BARBER
General Secretary