



The EI Pan-European Conference / ETUCE General Assembly

meeting in Luxemburg on 4-6 December 2006

Noting that:

- Following DOE's Congress the teachers of Primary Education started a magnificent fight with strikes from the 18th of September 2006 with 5 days of strike every week that continued for 6 weeks till the 27th of October.
- At the same time teachers of Secondary Education following the decision by OLME went on strike for 12 days.
- During the strikes every week, two demonstrations were organized in every large city of the country.
- On 5th of October, World Teachers' Day, a huge demonstration along with an open concert took place in Athens, in which over 20,000 teachers participated.
- Also big demonstrations took place in Athens and Thessaloniki and other cities, where teachers, parents, students, undergraduates and employees participated. During the demonstrations in Athens on 11th, 18th and 25th of October 20,000–30,000 teaching professionals participated. These were the biggest demonstrations in Greece over the last years.
- During the same time:
 - Students in over 1,000 schools of Secondary Education decided to sit-in at their schools for 3 weeks.
 - The Supreme Administration of Greek Civil Servants (ADEDY) along with the General Confederation of Greek Labors (GSEE) declared strikes and work stoppages in solidarity with the teachers on strike.
 - The Hellenic Federation of University Teachers' Associations (POSDEP) participated in the mobilizations with daily strikes every week.
 - University students in several Universities arranged sit-in protests in their schools
 - The mobilizations in Greece for education causes are continuing. On 3rd and 9th November, strikes, work stoppages and demonstrations were organized by the Teacher's Federations. In these demonstrations students also participated.
 - The Teacher's Federations are now preparing for a new round of mobilizations to take place in 2007.

The main demands of the Teachers' Federations are:

- An immediate raise in the expenses allocated for education, that will equal 5% of the GDP. It should be pointed out that Greece is ranked amongst the last places for educational expenses within the 25 countries of the EU – with only 3.5% of the GDP allocated to education. In contradiction to the Government's commitment that education expenses would be raised early, in this year's budget there is a reduction of the relevant percentage.
- The rise to €1,400 in the lowest salary paid to teachers (without deductions). Today the lowest salary is about 1,050 euros.
- Support of public education and opposition to the commercialization and privatization of education.
- Adequate training of teachers.



- Educational freedom and democracy in schools.
- “No” to the Revision of the Constitution in the way it has been promoted. “No” to the foundation of Private Universities.

Teachers in Greece are working towards the development of a big Pan–Educational front not only with parents and students but also with labour and trade unions for the support of public and free education.

Decides that:

ETUCE’s General Assembly and the Pan–European Conference of EI, express their solidarity to teachers in Greece from all educational levels and supports the fight for the right to public and free education. We also support the Greek teacher unions’ claim for an immediate raise in the expenses for education that will equal 5% of the GDP, the substantial improvement of their salaries and the scientific support of the teachers.

ETUCE’s General Assembly and the Pan–European Structure of EI asks that the Greek Government accepts the demands of the Greek Teachers, to support by all means Public and Free Education for All, and not to amend the Constitution regarding the foundation of Private Universities.

ETUCE’s General Assembly and the Pan–European Structure of EI also requests that the Greek Government takes part in a substantial dialogue with the educational community for the necessary reforms. Without an agreement with the teachers, there cannot be any educational reform.