

Mrs. Anna Diamantopoulou
Minister of Education
Greece

28 March 2011

Dear Minister

I am writing on behalf of my union representing 120,000 academic and academic-related staff in universities and colleges throughout the United Kingdom. We are deeply concerned to receive reports from OLME and DOE, the primary and secondary schoolteachers' federations in Greece, that your government is planning to close 1933 schools with a substantial loss of teaching posts. We understand that this decision, taken precipitately and without consultation, is being put forward to fulfil the demands of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The global teachers' body Education International monitors the actions of governments in response to IMF demands and their effects on the economies and societies of the countries concerned. The experience of the last 30 years has shown that the IMF's neo-liberal prescriptions simply do not work even in their own terms, do not contribute to long-term economic recovery, and leave key public services devastated, fuelling social unrest and inequality.

We urge you to re-consider this misconceived policy and recognise that education is a public good and investment in the future.

Yours sincerely



Sally Hunt
General Secretary