

Dear colleagues and comrades,

I would like to thank you for giving me the chance to inform you about situation in Greece the last two years. Employees, pensioners and all the people are living an endless nightmare.

For the last two years, when IMF and Troika came to Greece, there has been an effort to take back all that workers have conquered the past 100 years. They dissolve every social structure, they reduce salaries in levels in which no worker can survive, hundred thousands are being fired from their works, thousands of small family stores and business are closing and generally they lead us back to the middle ages.

All the above in the name of the debt Greece owns to the banks. But as far as we all see, the same measures are being imposed for Portugal, Spain, and Italy and Ireland and nearly for every European country. Of course they use every time a different cause in order to take the same measures. And that's why it's necessary to find out the real cause behind this huge attack started by the Capital against the world of labour.

The main cause is the global economic crisis which is ongoing for these two years. Especially after Lehman Brothers collapsed, the global Capital fired a general attack to the rights and the salaries of the workers. If we like to look up to the problem, it starts from the weakness of the capitalistic system to continue provide high percentage of profit to industrialists and to production in general.

And that's because at older times in order for an industrialist to have a profit of 100 euros he had to invest 1.000 euros. The more recent years if he wants to have a profit of 100 euros he has to invest 10.000. And that because of the rapid development of technology which oblige them to invest larger and larger amounts of money every time to new technologies and in short term time.

And that's the reason the Capital turned itself to the stock market. There, a quick and high profit is very direct. But, by this way a huge "bubble" has been created because the Capital overvalued itself but without producing anything. Last year the total of the global product was nearly 73 trillion dollars, while the circulated global money was over 1.100 trillion dollars. This has resulted to the over accumulation of a Capital that can no longer be invested to the production. And by this way the process of the destruction of this Capital has been launched. That's why we have a mass closure of enterprises, privatization of everything and millions of unemployed all over Europe.

In order to face the problem of the deduction of their profit, they believe that the only solution is the reduction of salaries thus deduction of the labour cost.

And that's why they have launched this attack to workers as well as to the pensioners. And of course that's why independent from the excuse they use each time, the measures are the same everywhere. For Greece they aim to bring the salaries to levels of other Balkan countries, that is 250 to 300 euros per month firstly, and then secondly, possibly bring them down to the levels of China.

They are reforming the pensionary status for the retired civil servants as well as for the other workers of private sector even with direct cuts of the pensions. (These changes are in a separate given text).

This policy our Government follows in cooperation with E.U., IMF and the Banks, is spreading to the education sector. A big effort is being done by them in order to change the structure of education, because they want education to serve the new development model they have already pre schedule for all people.

The changes were made to lead to the creation of a worker with a level of education as lower as can be, trained as earlier as he can be, and to a specific labour object, with low economical demands and expendable in a very short time. These are part of the agreements of the EU agreed at Bologna and now they are trying to implement them within Greece.

This past two years in our country, a strong labour movement has been created, which almost in a daily basis is struggling with these policies.

Till now, we have 5 killed workers in these street fights while the same time hundreds others of them have committed suicide, in other words have been “murdered” by the system.

Hundreds thousand people are out in the streets all the time and fighting with the police, making occupations of public buildings (Ministries, Social Services buildings, etc.), participating in strikes and demonstrations. The result of all these fights was the resignation of Papandreou s Government and the creation of a co-operational government with the participation of socialists as well as of fascists so to face the over- growing massive public movement.

Under this pressure and the weight of the anti – popular measures they impose to the Greek people, they forced to proceed to elections on the 6th of May.

The political system has been de – legalized and the general political situation is particularly unstable.

We workers decided to give our fight till the end, a fight that has already has acquire social characteristics margining out of the narrow bounds of a simple change of government.

Every day larger and larger parts of people understand that the solution is for our country to leave the European Union and Euro and to start discuss for another path of development in production and of social justice.

And that’s why people are preparing for big fights against the international Capital, the monopolies and the international imperialistic mechanisms.

In this direction Greek employees want to unite our forces with the employees of all Europe in order to face the black front of the Capital and of Multinational companies, to fight for a more fair society, to deter the wars scheduled by the International Capital.

Pensionary system for the Greek Teachers: before and now

Regarding the pensionary system of the Greek teachers before the new reform, teachers could retire after 30 years of service and if they were at least 55 years old. Their pension would be a percentage of 80% of their final salary of their last year of service (for example: if someone was 55 years old and his salary was 1.500 euros per month his pension would be 1.028 euros).

With these new changes, he has to be over 60 years old and he will take 70% of the mean salaries of his five last years of service and he will take 30/35 of this mean. For example: The last salary would not be calculated in his final salary of 1.500 euros but it's going to be calculated on the amount of 1.400 euros more or less, which is the mean of all the salaries of the last five years: $1.400 \text{ euros} * 0,70 * 30:35 = 840 \text{ euros}$. Hence he will have a pension of 200 euros less.

With the new By Law if a teacher wants to leave service and retire earlier, he must be at least 60 years old and has 25 years of service, instead of 55 years old and 25 years of service (according the older legislation). For every year that he leaves earlier (and that is from 25 to 35 years) he loses 6% of his pension. For example if he leaves 5 years earlier he will lose 30% of his pension.

The full pension can only be granted if a teacher has 35 years of service and be over 65 years old.

Ancillary Funds

For all Greek civil servants including state teachers there are three Ancillary Funds which were financed for several years only by the civil servants. The last years the State is financing them with a percentage. One of them gives to the civil servants a lump sum. After 35 years of service they take an amount of 50.000 euros as a lump sum. For this amount they pay every month during their service 4,5% of their salary. The last years the State does not grant the civil servants this lump sum after their retirement, but they have to wait over 5 years to get not the whole amount but 25% less of the lump sum. Now there are more than

50.000 civil servants on pension whom are waiting to get this lump sum. The Fund does not have money to pay them.

The other two ancillary funds are also financed by the civil servants with a monthly paid percentage of their salary. These funds are giving also to the retired civil servants including teachers a monthly divided about 35% more of their monthly pension. For example if their pension is 1.000 euros from these Funds they take 350 euros more monthly.

The last years the State made a deduction of these divided (20% less to the divided from the one Fund and 30% less to the other). Here, we must stress out that with the last agreement with the TROIKA and IMF, after the haircut of Greece s debt, they “haircut” also the reserve funds of these Ancillary Funds over 50%, hence all the Greek Ancillary Funds have lost near 12, 5 billion Euros. That of course resulted to the default of the Greek Ancillary Funds.

All the Greek civil servants gave their promise to through away this Government which decided for our impoverization. And we have decided to fight against these policies imposed from the EU, IMF and the ECB and the big capital from all over the world and we want to establish a new society based on social justice and welfare, a society with policies for all workers and not for the banks and the monopolies.

We will give our fight till the end. And we call for solidarity and common fights with the workers and all the civil servants across Europe.

We have all to fight against EU, IMF and all bankers and monopolies because they have started a war against us and we have to fight them back and defend our lives and rights.

We will win. Hasta la Victoria Siempre!!! The future will be ours!

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