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General Secretary Christine Blower

**Statement on Greece
National Union of Teachers (NUT) stands in solidarity
with the Greek teachers**

In light of the forthcoming general strike in Greece on 26 September 2012 the National Union of Teachers (NUT) stands in solidarity with our Greek colleagues.

The Greek Government is preparing for another round of cuts and privatisation. The amount invested in public education in Greece has always been among the lowest in Europe. After several cuts in the education budget and cuts in teachers' salaries, pensions and benefits, schools are now finding themselves in a situation where they can't even secure heating in winter time.

In the present situation in Greece cuts in the education budget leads to nowhere. Instead both the creditors and the Government should understand that protection of investment in education is one of the ways to get out of the crisis and an important component in ensuring a sustainable and socially coherent society.

With cuts in teachers' salaries varying from 25 to 35 % teachers have already paid more than reasonable for a crisis in which they do not have any part. The cuts in salaries are continuing in an even more sophisticated and selective way. We note that academic staff in universities are now being singled out for selective punitive wage cuts not being imposed on comparable categories of public servants, in spite of their already having faced freeze and cuts in salaries in the past four years. We support the industrial action which university staff are considering.

The NUT believes that safeguarding and improving investment in education in Greece is fundamental to economic growth. The NUT stands with our Greek colleagues in their fight against the austerity measures and gives full support to our colleagues in the general strike on 26 September.

Yours sincerely

CHRISTINE BLOWER
General Secretary