

Fédération Nationale de l'Enseignement, de la Culture et de la Formation Professionnelle

From: FNEC-FP FO

To: Mr. Antonis Samaras, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, pressoffice@primeminister.gr

To: Mr. Konstantinos Arvanitopoulos, Minister for Education of the Hellenic Republic,
minister@minedu.gov.gr

To: Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Minister for Administrative Reform and e-Governance,
ydmed@ydmed.gov.gr

Paris,
February 2, 2014

Mister the Prime Minister,
Mister the Minister for Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports
Mister the Minister for the Reform of the Administrative Reform and e-Governance,

Our colleague Themis Kotsifakis, president of OLME, has just informed us that you are about to dismiss 500 teachers after they have been suspended for 8 months with 2000 of their colleagues, in application of one of the plans dictated by the Troika — the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, and the European Central Bank. This plan has entailed the closure of vocational teaching sections, forbidding thousands of high school pupils to pursue their studies of choice.

We fully support Themis Kotsifakis and all our colleagues from OLME, who demand that you immediately create teachers positions so that all suspended colleagues are nominated again.

We fully support the open letter that Themis Kotsifakis sent you on January 15, 2014, the conclusion of which particularly moved us: *“Mr. Minister I am not asking to be exempted and I am not hiding behind my trade-union capacity, but I would like you to know that if you are to dismiss at least one teacher, this will be the President of OLME and you will be held responsible for this action and raise an outcry both in Greece and in Europe.”* Austerity is a direct threat to the most elementary rights, to the most fundamental democratic liberties; unfortunately, this is a new proof of that fact.

We demand that you satisfy our colleagues' claims, defended by OLME and its president.

We demand that you cancel the dismissal plan that affect our colleagues, which is in your capacity, and that you restore our 500 colleagues and Themis Kotsifakis, president of OLME, to their previous positions.

Yours respectfully,

Hubert Raguin
General Secretary, FNEC-FP FO

