

Rome, 19 february 2014
Prot. n. 65/2014 DP/JC-stm

Mr. Antonis Samaras
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Object: School Closures and Teacher Dismissals in Greece

My name is Domenico Pantaleo and I am General Secretary of the Knowledge Workers' Federation (FLC) of Italy, representing more than 180.00 teachers and education workers, part of the General Italian Workers' Confederation (CGIL) and of its more than 6.000.000 adherents.

In July 2013 we have been informed by the Greek Secondary Teachers' Union OLME that your government has closed down three sectors of vocational education lyceums and vocational education schools (healthcare, applied arts and aesthetics/ hairstyling) and suspended 2.500 teachers from 50 subjects. My union is well aware that these measures are a result of the fulfilment of your government's agreement with the Troika to dismiss a certain number of suspended public sector workers.

I firmly believe that the austerity policy imposed on Greece by the Troika is wrong and harmful to your country, especially to the younger generation in Greece. The amount of money spent for public education in Greece has always been among the lowest in Europe. Instead of investing in education as a way out of the crisis, your government is now closing schools and dismissing teachers. It is not acceptable that students and teachers have to pay for failed policies and debts they are not responsible for.

Together with OLME I urge you to re-open the closed sectors in vocational education schools and to reassign the suspended teachers to their posts.

Sincerely.

Domenico Pantaleo
General Secretary of FLC Cgil Italy

