



Education International

Internationale de l'Education

Internacional de la Educación

<http://www.ei-ie.org>

EUROPEAN REGION-

ETUCE

President

Christine BLOWER

Vice-Presidents

Odile CORDELIER

Walter DRESSCHER

Paula ENGWALL

Andreas KELLER

Galina MERKULOVA

Branimir STRUKELJ



5, Bd du Roi Albert II, 9th

1210 Brussels, Belgium

Tel +32 2 224 06 91/92

Fax +32 2 224 06 94

secretariat@csee-etuice.org

<http://www.csee-etuice.org>

ETUCE

European Trade Union Committee for Education EI European Region

TO: OLME, ETUCE Member in Greece

Brussels, 13 June 2014

Ref.: MR/AKR/9651

Subject: Solidarity with the ETUCE member organisation OLME in Greece

Dear colleagues,

The ETUCE wishes to renew and to emphasize its strong expression of solidarity with you and all your members in Greece during these times of almost unbearable continuous pressure on OLME's strength and endurance.

School guards and teachers of the secondary technical vocational education are currently joining a sit-in protest around the clock outside the Greek Ministry of Finance. They are rightfully demonstrating against their suspension, the ongoing uncertainty and the fear of the final job loss.

After yesterday's change of the Minister of Education there might be some cause for them to hope that the political decision makers in Greece will come to their senses with regard to the imminent threats of education sector cuts and draw the right conclusions. We share their hope that the new Minister might understand the vital importance to strengthen the sector as a main pillar for Greece's economic recovery. The following steps will be crucial not only for the promotion of stability and prosperity in Greece but also for the common future of all citizens in Europe.

This is why ETUCE, the EI European Region, entirely supports OLME's demand towards the newly appointed Minister of Education to refuse signing the lay-off of teachers. Instead, all teachers in the suspension program should return to their work places and play their part in stabilising and improving the Greek education system. We agree with OLME that it is equally important to re-establish all the subjects of vocational studies in those schools where they were abolished and then transferred to other, non-formal vocational training institutions. The task now is to safeguard and secure education and training quality for the sake of generations in Greece still to come. The ETUCE is expecting from the Greek Ministry of Education a complete reversal from this serious and unsustainable situation!

We will keep monitoring the situation and support you and your members. ETUCE assures you of its continuous support and solidarity in your efforts to establish social justice in Greece.

In solidarity,

Martin Rømer
European Director