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**Onderwerp:** Equal Times newsletter: Cyprus, Europe's social contract, Brazil and more



## **= THE RIGHT DIRECTION?**

The financial meltdown in Cyprus, and its impact on its citizens, is the umpteenth example of how speculation and deregulation have taken over the real economy in Europe.

Actually it is the Cypriot workers who are paying the ultimate price now. Many people will not receive their salaries this month and many others, in both the public and private sectors, face losing their jobs.

This is on top of the fact that for nearly two weeks Cypriots were unable to withdraw cash after the banks were temporarily closed.

But while the Eurogroup has imposed severe measures which are affecting the savings and cash needs of everyday Cypriots, those responsible for the banking crisis continue to go unpunished.

Such an approach reveals a blatant disregard for the social dimension of Europe, which was one of the founding principles of the Union.

In February, in the new roadmap for a stronger economic union, the European Council showed concern about rising unemployment and increasing poverty, worsened by disastrous austerity policies. As a result, it called for the European social contract to remain “the cement of political stability.”

However, despite the declarations of intent about the importance of social welfare and social dialogue, it seems that the course of direction hasn't changed much.

Under the pretext of growth and competitiveness, the roadmap still pushes for deregulation of labour markets and for the reduction of wages.

The heavy social impact of those policies has already created political instability in most parts of southern Europe, with serious risks for the European Union as a whole.

What more will it take for Eurocrats to realise that their road map is leading them in the wrong direction?

Vittorio Longhi,

Editor

## = HIGHLIGHTS



### **CYPRUS: WHO PAYS THE ULTIMATE PRICE?**

Posted on March 28, 2013

In what is now a familiar story across the Eurozone, those responsible for Cyprus's financial meltdown won't be those who pay for it.

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### **EU: ONE WEDDING AND THREE FUNERALS FOR SOCIAL EUROPE**

Posted on March 27, 2013

How serious is the EU about tackling unemployment, increasing poverty and the political instability?

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### **BRAZIL: FAST FOOD SLAVES**

Posted on March 28, 2013

The Brazilian franchise of McDonald's is under criminal investigation for exploiting workers.

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## = CAMPAIGN

### **NO WORLD CUP WITHOUT WORKERS' RIGHTS**



## **More people will die building Qatar's World Cup stadiums than will play in the World Cup**

1.2 million workers in Qatar are prohibited from joining a trade union, in violation of international rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining. And incredibly, 94 per cent of working people in Qatar are migrant workers, with no rights at work. We want people to know about the problems facing workers in Qatar. Don't let your World Cup team play in a shamed stadium. Help us tell the Qatari authorities they should do the right thing for workers and allow them to form and join a trade union.

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## **= COMING SOON**

### **EGYPT: A REVOLUTION BETRAYED**

Two years on from the revolution that ousted Hosni Mubarak, and democracy still eludes Egypt. From economic insecurity to limited freedom of association to continued political unrest, the next Equal Times special report examines the legacy of – and challenges to – the Tahrir Square protest movement.

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