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Onderwerp: EU-IMF rescue packages: Social dialogue and Collective Bargaining are under attack

EU-IMF RESCUE PACKAGES: SOCIAL DIALOGUE AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ARE UNDER ATTACK

11 January 2011



European Trade Union Confederation [ETUC]
Confédération européenne des syndicats [CES]

In a letter sent today to EU Commissioner Olli Rehn, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) denounces the diktat pressures from Commission officials to cut minimum wages and pensions, to reduce wage "rigidities" and to make labour markets more flexible in Greece and Ireland. John Monks, ETUC General Secretary, demands an emergency meeting with Mr Rehn to clarify matters, and warns that ETUC will find it impossible to support action by the EU along these lines.

The ETUC has received reports from trade unions in Greece and Ireland about the role of EU Commission officials in implementing the EU/IMF rescue packages. According to these reports, it looks clear that the Commission officials are ignoring social dialogue and collective bargaining processes and directly intervening in the labour markets of these countries. Diktats are being issued which are designed to lower living standards.

"This policy of detailed interference in labour markets tramples all over pious Commission statements about the autonomy of the social partners, the importance of social dialogue and the specific exclusion in the EU treaties of a European competence on pay" John Monks declared.

On the eve of the launch of the European semester process, the European trade union movement is worried about the proposals on economic governance, and any new treaty which contains them, and which could reduce member states to quasi colonial status.

Link to the letter sent to EU Commissioner Rehn : http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/110111_...

The ETUC exists to speak with a single voice, on behalf of the common interests of workers, at European level. Founded in 1973, it now represents 83 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 12 industry-based federations.

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