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ETUC WELCOMES EU'S COMMITMENT FOR A GROWTH STRATEGY

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

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) welcomes the EU's commitment for a growth strategy for Greece, as expressed in the conclusion of the Council's summit. Moves to lower interest rates and to offer longer repayment terms for countries in difficulties are also sending positive signals. But a more comprehensive approach remains necessary.

"EU leaders have, at long last, admitted that austerity is not working and that a growth strategy is necessary. Unused structural funds should serve for growth and jobs. Trade unions should be involved", said Bernadette Ségol, ETUC General Secretary. ETUC has called for a more long term strategy including Eurobonds, a financial transaction tax to support investments and jobs, the end of tax havens and tax evasion and a minimum common rate for company taxation.

The ETUC General Secretary will meet President Barroso today to discuss the Commission's plans for the growth strategy.

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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