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**Onderwerp:** ETUC welcomes ILO Director General's insistence on the primacy of workers' rights



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

*Commenting on International Labour Organisation (ILO) Director-General Juan Somavia's address to the European Parliament today, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) General Secretary Bernadette Ségal said: "The Director-General was unequivocal that workers' rights must not be sacrificed to austerity measures. I welcome his statement that "Respect for fundamental principles and rights at work is non-negotiable; not even in times of crisis when questions of fairness abound. This is particularly important in countries having to adopt austerity measures. We cannot use the crisis as an excuse to disregard internationally agreed labour standards."*

*"I hope that governments such as that of Hungary that are doing precisely what he deplores, take due note. I also welcome his statement that a High-Level ILO Mission will be sent to Greece very soon and I hope that it will be making the same point to the authorities there as well as to the EU institutions, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)."*

*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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