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ETUC Press release

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**The Unions' response to closing down ERT –public television and radio
broadcasting – is a 24-hour general strike.**

The GSEE and the ETUC express solidarity with ERT employees.

13/06/2013

After the shock decision by the Greek government to shut down the Hellenic Public Radio-television, ERT, the Greek General Confederation of Labour (GSEE) Executive Committee decided in an extraordinary meeting to stage a 24-hour general strike today and organise a rally outside the broadcaster's headquarters in a northern Athens suburb.

We call upon working people to express their solidarity with ERT employees who were dismissed overnight and protest against the decision outside the ERT premises.

Trade unions together with Greek society, which is suffering under the painful and unilateral austerity measures imposed by the Greek government, were caught unaware by the shock announcement. They denounce this unprecedented authoritarian and anti-democratic decision as a "*coup d' état*".

In their meeting yesterday with the Greek Prime Minister, Antonis Samaras, the General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), Bernadette Ségol, and the GSEE President, Yannis Panagopoulos, expressed their disagreement with the decision and strongly denounced the closing down of ERT.

It is a joint and non-negotiable GSEE and ETUC position that ERT belongs to the Greek people and is accountable only before to Greek taxpayers, who pay for public broadcasting.

The GSEE will join forces with ERT employees and will fight to reverse this decision.

The European Trade Union Confederation (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 85 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 10 industry-based federations. The ETUC is also on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#).

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