



Mr. Ferenc GYRURCSÁNY
Prime Minister
Republic of Hungary

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REF.: CFP/It

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Dear Prime Minister,

The Executive Committee of the European Federation of Public Service Unions – EPSU - meeting on 25 and 26 November has been informed by Ms. Agnes Cser and Mr. Rezső Gál on the current situation in your country.

We are deeply concerned to learn of your government's intentions to unilaterally impose cuts into the collectively agreed employment conditions in the public sector, such as the 13th salary for 2009. We are also worried to hear that your government plans to go ahead with a further reduction of the public sector workforce without any negotiations with the union organizations concerned.

We are afraid that the continuation of such an austerity policy will lead to a further accentuation of income inequalities and the erosion of purchasing power for working families. It is unacceptable that public sector workers are singled out and are expected to foot a major part of the bill at the detriment of their livelihoods and that of their families.

Whilst recognizing that your country might not be in a position to resolve its current problems entirely on its own, now is not the time to continue with the old recipes. The European trade union movement is calling for a European investment fund to promote investment in renewable energies, energy savings, innovation and European infrastructure networks. National economies will need to invest in schools, hospitals, clean water and sanitation as well as public transport, not only to avert recession, but also to lay the basis for millions of people to come out of poverty.

We recognize your government's responsibility to address the grave consequences of the financial crisis, but such a policy must be the result of broad consultation with the social partners and must provide for balanced and fair solutions.

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In this sense, we urge you to immediately enter consultations and negotiations with the trade union organizations of your country in order to restore and maintain social peace!

Yours sincerely,

Anne-Marie Perret
President

Carola Fischbach-Pyttel
General Secretary