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# ETUCE

## European Trade Union Committee for Education EI European Region

Mr. Antonis Samaras  
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Brussels, 13 October 2014

Ref: MR/AKR/9733

### Subject: Suspension of teachers and job uncertainty in Greek education

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers of the Greek Government,

With this letter the ETUCE wishes to express utmost support with its Greek member organisation OLME during these increasingly tense times which bring growing professional insecurity and uncertainty for so many teachers in Greece.

According to OLME, it has been fifteen months since 1.625 teachers in public vocational education have been or are being suspended. In March 2014 the salaries of eighty five of those teachers were apparently even stopped and have not been paid out since. Hundreds of other teachers were reported to have been permanently transferred to jobs in the administration or have been forced to retire. OLME says that only 174 of the 2.424 teachers who lost their positions in July 2013, have returned to the education sector but to other subject areas. Today, several teachers are facing the threat of final dismissal.

This current policy continuous dismissal or shifting of well-trained and experienced teachers degrades public vocational education in Greece, because it also deprives thousands of students of the possibility to study in important sectors of their choice such as in healthcare, cosmetics and applied arts. This is why we urge you to find alternatives to these drastic measures.

Saving measures in education are short-sighted and should be stopped immediately. They impact negatively not only on the education sector itself but consequently on every other economic sector. The imperative task is to safeguard and secure education and training quality for the sake of generations in Greece still to come.

ETUCE asks you for a complete reversal from this serious and unsustainable situation and urges the Greek social partners in education to gather at the negotiation table. ETUCE appeals to you to find ways together to restore and to ensure the functioning of the

abolished sectors within vocational education. The Greek government must shoulder its responsibility as a social partner and involve OLME to co-operate together on better solutions in the education sector with the long-term objective to guarantee best quality education for everybody in Greece.

We will keep monitoring the situation and support OLME and its members in their efforts to fight for job security in education and social justice in Greece.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Rømer', with a stylized, cursive script.

Martin Rømer  
European Director

*The ETUCE, the European Trade Union Committee for Education, is the European Region of Education International, the global umbrella organisation of teacher unions. It represents 132 teacher unions in Europe, i.e. more than 11 million teachers from all levels of the education sector (pre-primary, primary, secondary & higher education, vocational education & training) in 45 countries. The ETUCE is a social partner in education at EU level and a trade union federation of the ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation.*