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ETUCE

European Trade Union Committee for Education EI European Region

To: OELMEK, POED and OLTEK
ETUCE member organisations in Cyprus

Brussels, 13 July 2018
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**EUROPEAN REGION-
ETUCE**

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Subject: Solidarity with the ETUCE member organisations in Cyprus

Dear colleagues,

With this letter, ETUCE wishes to express its robust solidarity with you, the teachers in Cyprus and their unions, in the fight for your legitimate right to be consulted on education related issues under fundamental international and European laws and regulations.

We share your resentment about the Cypriot government's intention to:

- increase teaching time of education personnel at all levels by 40 periods in Cyprus;
- partially and/or completely eliminate special programmes aiming at supporting disadvantaged students, students with foreign citizenship and from a migrant background;
- remove the exemption from teaching for trade union duties and activities.

It is not acceptable that on 2 July 2018 the Cypriot government gave you an ultimatum to accept these proposals which are to come into effect on 1 September 2018 without consulting you, the education trade unions beforehand. This does not correspond to the commitment of the European political leaders, including government officials in Cyprus, made on 17 November 2017, on the proclamation of [the European Pillar of Social Rights](#), to support that [...] "*workers or their representatives have the right to be informed and consulted in good time on matters relevant to them*" [...].

Furthermore, the elimination of special programmes potentially affects 35% of the total student population and jeopardizes the right and access to quality education for all.

In light of the European Summit in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017, where the central role of education was highlighted as a part of [...] "the solution to get more people into decent jobs, respond better to the economy's skills needs and strengthen Europe's resilience"[...], together with you, ETUCE calls on the Cypriot government to commit to its responsibilities. Striving for and supporting free quality public education for all as an essential element and driver of society governments should in continuous consultations with education trade unions discuss reforms and changes.

ETUCE believes that your protest action will launch comprehensive negotiations.

In solidarity,

Susan Flocken
European Director



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