

The crisis of the capitalist system is affecting every single country. Everywhere, governments and employers are taking advantage of this as a pretext to increase the exploitation of workers. However, it is they who are responsible for this situation, it is their political and economic system which is at stake! Our response to this must be organized resistance. In many countries mass mobilisations have taken place in the last few months; coordination of these at a European level is now essential. This is what trade unions from European countries who are signatories to this appeal are building. Here's why:

We support the British trade union demonstration and we will take part in London on Saturday, 26 March.

In Greece, 8 days of general strike have taken place in the last year.

In Portugal, a historic general strike took place on 24 November 2010.

In France, a coordinated movement gripped the country from May to November including a prolonged all-out strike in October 2010.

In Spain a general strike took place on 29 September, other strikes took place in parts of the Spanish State on 27 January.

In Italy, general strikes were organized in 2010 and others are in preparation for 11 March and 15 April 2011, ...

In Germany, Poland, Switzerland, Belgium, all across Europe local or sectoral movements are breaking out everywhere.

Young people have not been left behind: in Britain, Italy and France, they have protested under their own slogans ...

We won't pay for their crisis: it's not our system!

Our response to their coordinated attacks ...

Although the current situation is just the logical outcome of the system that they built up, bosses and governments are trying to pretend that extraordinary measures are needed in extraordinary times. But in reality this is nothing exceptional: **they simply want to continue getting rich at the expense of those of us who have to work in order to live!**

The attacks that we are suffering in every country across Europe all have common features: **the destruction of public services, increased social insecurity and unemployment,**

questioning our rights to pensions and health care ... They are being applied on the orders of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the European Central Bank, international institutions established to defend the interests of the powerful.

... Let's organize together to win!

Faced with this situation, there will be no solution unless we negotiate from a position of strength. Making agreements and signing pacts under such circumstances means accepting dictats and turning one's back on workers' interests. For us, trade unionism's role is to defend the interests of workers and build a fairer society: it involves a rejection of "austerity measures", not partnership with them.

A wave of strikes and demonstrations are needed at European level. For the trade union movement, the priority must be to build such a Europe-wide mobilisation, not to take part in negotiations with management to accept agreements or pacts applying austerity plans on the orders of the European Central Bank, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. **Lets build this trade union movement and this social mobilisation together across Europe, without sectarianism!** Our support for this demonstration by British trade unions is one milestone on this road.

