



European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)  
Confédération européenne des syndicats (CES)

Brussels, 29 May 2009  
JM/lw

To the EU Heads of State and Government

Dear Heads of State and Government,

Over the past two days, the ETUC held its mid mandate Congress under the slogan “Fight the crisis – Put People First”.

The Conference adopted the Paris Declaration (copies in English and French attached). This follows the recent ETUC Action Days in which 350,000 trade unionists participated in Madrid, Brussels, Berlin and Prague.

You will see that we are calling for a bigger Recovery Plan, better co-ordinated and directed action at European level, no return to the ‘casino’ capitalism which has caused the crisis, and for a Social Progress Protocol to be added to the EU treaties, with a revised Posted Workers Directive, to correct the present, worrying unbalance between the free movement of services and collective bargaining at national level.

On this last point, we are also urging the Commission and the Council of Ministers, and all those engaged in the talks about a possible new Irish referendum on the Lisbon Treaty to reach agreement on a Social Progress Protocol guaranteeing workers and union rights. I enclose a suggested text which we would like to see inserted and so provide a guide to the ECJ about the need to uphold fundamental rights in the single market. If not, I fear trade unions will turn against the single market which already has its difficulties in the current crisis.

Yours sincerely,

John Monks  
General Secretary  
ETUC