

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
Bd du Roi Albert II No. 5, B1210 Brussels Belgium
(ph) + 32 2 2240211 (fax) + 32 2 2015815
internetpo@icftu.org www.icftu.org

World Confederation of Labour
Rue de Trèves 33, B - 1040 Bruxelles Belgium
(ph) +32 2 2854700 (fax) +32 2 2308722
info@cmt-wcl.org www.cmt-wcl.org

European Trade Union Confederation
Bd du Roi Albert II No. 5, B1210 Brussels Belgium
(ph) + 32 2 2240411 (fax) 32 2 2240454
etuc@etuc.org www.etuc.org

Education International
Bd du Roi Albert II No. 5, B1210 Brussels Belgium
(ph) +32 2 2240611 (fax) 32 2 2240606
headoffice@ei-ie.org www.ei-ie.org

Mr Peter Gray
Australian Ambassador to the European Communities,
Belgium and Luxembourg
Brussels, Belgium

14 November 2005

Dear Mr Gray,

Australian Industrial Relations Legislation

We are writing to express our profound concern over the industrial relations legislation which the Australian government is in the process of rushing through your country's parliament. This legislation contains a wide range of provisions which constitute serious violations international labour standards, and will remove much needed protections for Australian workers, in particular those most vulnerable to exploitation by unscrupulous employers. It will cause significant harm to Australia's international reputation as a democracy, where fundamental rights should be upheld, and to its overseas interests. The trade union movement internationally, and within the European Union, will do all within our power to support the efforts of Australian workers and their trade unions, to oppose this fundamental attack on the rights of working people. We request you to convey our views to the Australian government, and to inform them of our determination to work in full solidarity with our Australian colleagues.

Yours sincerely,



Guy Ryder
General Secretary,
ICFTU

Willy Thys
General Secretary,
WCL

Fred Van Leeuwen (EI)
Chair, Global Union Federations
General Conference

Candido Mendez
President, ETUC

John Monks
General Secretary, ETUC