



To EPSU affiliated unions in Finland

Brussels, 16 September 2015

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EPSU sends solidarity greeting to Finnish trade unions

EPSU sends solidarity greetings to all its Finnish affiliates and the rest of the Finnish trade union movement as they gather for a national protest on Friday 18 September. The massive mobilisation will show the Finnish government the strength of the opposition to its unprecedented attack on employment rights and on free collective bargaining.

The right of trade unions to negotiate with employers over the pay and conditions for workers without government interference has been a cornerstone of Finnish industrial relations. It is completely unacceptable that the government now attempts to undermine this with its plans to cut holiday and sick pay entitlement as well as reducing additional payments for overtime and Sunday working.

EPSU is solidly behind the Finnish trade unions' rejection of these unilateral cuts to pay and conditions, some of which will particularly impact low-paid women workers in the public services.

We also believe that the Finnish government is completely misguided in its attempt to improve productivity through this one-off cut to labour costs. Boosting productivity in the longer term is about investment in skills and training, innovation as well as in public services and infrastructure. This unilateral action is more likely to reduce productivity as a result of disruption to the industrial relations system and creation of anger and resentment among employees.

Yours in solidarity,

Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary

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