

**MICHAEL SOMMER**  
PRESIDENT  
PRÉSIDENT  
PRÄSIDENT  
PRESIDENTE

**SHARAN BURROW**  
GENERAL SECRETARY  
SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRALE  
GENERALSEKRETÄRIN  
SECRETARIA GENERAL

Mr. Loukas Papademos  
Prime Minister  
Athens  
Greece

PERC/GG - HTUR/NT

9 January 2012

Prime Minister,

The ITUC has been informed by its affiliate the Greek trade union confederation, GSEE, that the President of the power workers' union, GENOP/DEI, Nikos Photopoulos, and other colleagues are awaiting trial on January 10. They have been charged following a sit-in held in November 2011 to protest against part of the Greek austerity measures and, specifically, against the policy of enforcing the new property tax through power bills.

The ITUC wants to express its solidarity with the GSEE's declaration as well as its supports to the legitimate actions of Greek trade unionists in drawing the attention of the government to the dangerous consequences of the austerity policies that are being further adopted.

We once more appeal to you, Prime Minister, and to the Greek authorities to refrain from penalizing trade union action and to drop all charges against trade unionists defending their legitimate interests and the right of citizens to unimpeded access to a vital public good that is doubly essential in these trying times of outmost hardship.

We hope that in these hard times when consensus and collective efforts are key to the success of the policies to help the country out of the crisis, the government will not engage with fuelling tensions and fragmentation of society eroding the base for the process of recovery and will facilitate a positive solution for the trade unionists in the case referred.

The ITUC also supports GSEE in its rejection of further income losses and its refusal to negotiate the national collective wage agreement including provisions on minimum wage and holiday pay as per the troika request.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary

Cc: Mr. Yorgos Koutroumanis, Minister of Labour and Social Security  
Mr Miltiadis Papaioannou, Minister of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights