

The appeal by CGIL, CISL and UIL (*La Repubblica*- April 12, 2020)

CGIL, CISL and UIL: "We will overcome the crisis by building a new development model"

Dear Editor,

This is unfortunately a different Easter from those we have experienced in recent years. It is for all of us a day of hope, of reflection, of deep sharing of the difficult phase that mankind is going through because of a sneaky and invisible enemy. Our thoughts go to those who, in these terrible days, have lost their families, relatives and dearest friends. Our deepest sympathy goes to all the doctors, nurses, public health staff, the Civil Protection and all the State bodies strenuously committed to saving human lives. Our thanks go to the many workers who, in these hours, are ensuring the essential production, services, distribution of goods, consumption and trade that enable us all to keep on leading an orderly and civic life. They are extraordinary people who deserve very special recognition and the general praise of all Italians.

Due to the restrictions imposed by the lockdown on companies and the whole productive system in Italy, the labour world is going through a very hard and difficult phase. We must not waste the huge economic, social and family sacrifices that all Italians have been making in these weeks with a great sense of responsibility.

This is the reason why we have agreed with the government that there are not yet the conditions for a general resumption of work activities. The unions are ready with their proposals and their great solidarity network, as we have already shown in other tragic moments of the Italian history. We can and must use these days to prepare Italy for the next stages by endeavouring for everybody's health and safety in a collaborative and responsible way, listening to the advice of the scientific community and health institutions, as well as agreeing together on how to shape the future.

We all want to start again with the maximum safety and with the necessary guarantees for health, in all workplaces, territories and cities. This is the unions' current priority, together with safeguarding employment and income for all workers. We know that nothing will be the same as before. We need to be ready to start again, by relying on the social value of work, of its security and of people's dignity. In short, we must take this opportunity to change our development model and deeply rebuild our country, which we no longer want to be the same as before. We want a country that knows how to redesign the economy based on investment in Southern Italy, on environmental sustainability, environmental-friendly productions, land-use planning, innovation, education, training, research and knowledge. We want a country that lays the foundations of its action on social cohesion, starting from reaffirming the centrality of work, participation, the universality of the public health system, the quality of social services for elderly people, families, women and young people. We want and will fight for a new and solidarity-based Europe, proud of its social dimension and capable of competing and being a point of reference in the world thanks to its values of freedom, acceptance and democracy.

This is the spirit and way in which workers and their unions are currently living these difficult days, preparing the whole country and paving the way for its rebirth, with unity, courage and solidarity.

The General Secretaries

Maurizio Landini, CGIL

Annamaria Furlan, CISL

Carmelo Barbagallo, UIL