

## **Statement of UNI Europa Finance Conference, Athens, Greece, 24-25 October 2013 in solidarity with union struggle in Greece**

Greece's current bailout is controlled by the Troika—the International Monetary Fund, the European Union and the European Central Bank. The Troika's intervention has failed to end the eurozone crisis and to pull Greece out of misery. The terms imposed by the Troika for the bailouts—past, present and future—are getting worse. Because of this the government is implementing even more measures that will put many Greeks into poverty.

We stand for the opposite, namely for sustainable investments by the finance sector. Investments that will meet the needs of ordinary people instead of the happy few. Therefore we support your fights called by the unions against the government campaign to impose closures and mass sackings. The workers of the Greek public broadcasting network ERT responded magnificently to this "massacring" by keeping the TV and radio channels open under their control. Another good example was given by the hospital workers resisting the closure of eight hospitals who organised national strikes on 23 and 29 August.

Therefore we support the call for the general strike on Wednesday 6 November of Greece's main union federations against mass sackings in both the private and the public sector. We know there have already been public sector general strikes and major ongoing strikes of teachers, local government and civil service workers. We know admin workers of universities are in a big fight supported by students and lecturers to save their jobs and are in their seventh week of strike. We know teachers have been striking for a week and a half last month, and more than 65 percent voted to continue indefinitely. We know that many teachers are organising to build the pressure for more strikes.

In the whole of Europe we are facing cuts by governments and employers which lead to mass sackings and poverty. Therefore we believe that if you win that will mean a victory for all European workers and citizens.

United we stand!