

**SOLIDARITY ACTION  
IN SUPPORT OF THE GENERAL STRIKE  
CALLED BY ITALIAN BANK EMPLOYEES  
ON 31 OCTOBER 2013**

The UNI Europa Finance affiliates meeting at the biennial conference held in Athens on 24 – 25 October 2013, express their wholehearted solidarity with all Italian bank workers and the Italian trade unions, who have called a nationwide strike scheduled for 31 October.

The Conference participants believe that the situation created by the unilateral decision of the Italian Banking Association (ABI) to pull out of the national collective agreement is a serious and provocative action that breaks with a long tradition of cooperation and dialogue.

The strike and the rallies that are scheduled to follow aim to:

- defend collective bargaining in the banking sector
- reject the attempt by ABI “to hold a gun to our heads” which is what they are doing by terminating the collective agreement
- reject a policy which is designed to cut jobs, and represents an attack on the solidarity fund for the support of banking sector personnel
- reject the attack on the pay, rights and professionalism of bank workers
- call for an alternative lending policy which is geared to helping families and small and medium-sized enterprises and which will allow the country’s economy to grow.

Athens, 25 October 2013