



European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
Confédération européenne des syndicats (CES)

Brussels, 14 May 2010

JM/lw

To:

Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

Copy to:

Mr Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council

Mr José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, President of the Spanish Government

Mr Jean-Claude Trichet, President of the European Central Bank

Mr Olli Rehn, Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs

Mr László Andor, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Mr Philippe De Buck, Director-General of BusinessEurope

Mr Ralf Resch, General Secretary of CEEP

Mr Andrea Benassi, Secretary General of UEAPME

[Letter sent by e-mail]

Dear President Barroso,

An Emergency Tripartite Social Summit

I write to express my very serious concern about the severe social consequences of austerity measures being taken in certain member states of the EU and about conditions decided by the EU recently to help countries in economic distress. The ETUC is asking for an emergency Tripartite Social Summit to consider these matters.

Greece is already subject to a very tough EU-IMF bail-out. Now Spain and Portugal are also adopting very severe programmes. If EU help is required, the conditions go beyond, in terms of, severity the conditions applied by the IMF alone in other cases.

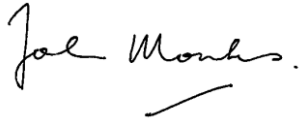
The cuts being applied are pro-cyclical, deflationary and will worsen unemployment. The private sector recovery is still fragile and will not be able to supply compensatory growth. The 'social acquis' is being weakened as cuts take place in pay, pensions, public spending and labour standards. One result is major strikes in Greece and now in Spain, France and Romania; more undoubtedly are on the way. Another is that there is some resemblance between the policies now and those applied in the 1930s.

There has been no consultation with the EU social partners about this co-ordinated "exit" approach of the European authorities to countries in economic distress in the EU – and in these circumstances, I am writing to ask you to convene as a matter of emergency, an extraordinary meeting of the Tripartite Social Summit to consider

alongside other factors the need for growth and social cohesion. And as an exceptional step, it would be helpful to have the managing director of the IMF invited.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Monks." The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

John Monks
General Secretary
ETUC