



7th October 2016 – World Day for Decent Work

Europe continues under the devastating impact of the crisis and of austerity policies, not just in terms of a huge increase in unemployment and precarious work, poor quality jobs, rise in inequalities, both within and between EU countries, but also in undermining and even dismantling key mechanisms and instruments (namely the collective bargaining system) essential to combat these trends and to protect those who fall victim to them.

The European social model has been dramatically eroded and there are no signs that the European Union wants to reverse this path.

Under the response to the crisis, neoliberal policies have promoted labour deregulation and undermined working conditions.

The quality of industrial relations and the quality of employment has been either under stress or seriously undermined, towards its weakness and fragmentation;

Tensions between social regulations and the market-making agenda became particularly pronounced

In this context, the threat and the practice of social dumping and top-down marketization have become more imminent.

Work is being used to gain a competitive advantage, with wages and working conditions under an increasing pressure to the bottom.

As a result, grows in Europe (and namely in the European capital cities) the number of women and men with non decent and unacceptable working conditions, wages of misery, with hunger, without social protection. As a result increases the number of the working poor and the number of those who are submitted to slavery. In today's European labour market, a job is not sufficient to provide a decent livelihood, for an increasing number of workers and their families.

This is not the Europe that trade Unions want and defend!

Europe needs to reinforce its social model, promoting social cohesion and harmonization in progress! Europe needs to bring to the top of priorities the social, labour and human rights.

Trade Unions from European Capital Cities strongly demand a different Europe, with cooperation and solidarity that serves the workers and people's interests.