



## **GSEE CALLS GENERAL STRIKE ON 24 FEBRUARY 2010**

### **PUTTING PEOPLE ABOVE MARKETS**

GSEE has called a **nationwide 24-hour strike for February 24, 2010** to defend the working people of Greece against the domestic and international neo-liberal onslaught that prescribes wage freezes, wage and pension cuts, lay-offs and targets rights.

**We are mobilizing against misdirected dogmatic policy choices that will mathematically deepen the crisis by triggering massive unemployment, ravaging welfare, and strangling economic activity in a nightmare scenario of deregulation, poverty and social dumping.**

- 4 The Greek case undoubtedly demonstrates serious domestic flaws as regards governance as well as an economic model geared on low competitiveness, low productive investments, excessive public expenditure and fiscal inconsistency.
- 4 The Greek case, however, equally illustrates the destructive dynamics of a finance driven capitalism that has increasingly shaped economic and social development in the EU whereby short-termism, financial speculation and a "markets/profits first" ideology replaced long-term strategic orientation in governments, banks and business.
- 4 The Greek case confirms that financial markets are still left free to speculate and impose their demands on society despite the near collapse of the global financial system in 2008 and the ensuing dramatic output slump that fundamentally challenge the neoliberal discourse.
- 4 The Greek case reveals how the financial elite aided by Wall Street rating agencies and highly manipulative 'spin' games discredits nations to discipline governments and central banks into implementing further deadly cocktails of anti-social, pro-market austerity packages.

**The Greek trade unions recognize the country's grave fiscal, economic and social situation.** We have repeatedly warned against any Government practice and policy that contributed to the present crisis. We have protested the gradual erosion of our rights, pensions and income. Enough is enough.

We will, therefore, oppose in every way we can, the brutal zero-prospect recipe prescribed for the working people of Greece—and ultimately of Europe—by the European financial elite in favour of markets and banks to the detriment of society and the real economy.

We propose another way out of the vicious neoliberal circle where crisis breeds crisis: **A radically different economic policy mix** to support investment, growth and employment, to protect workers' income and purchasing power, to reinforce the supervisory and regulatory role of the State, to safeguard social cohesion, to strengthen welfare and sustain the environment. We demand fair and effective taxation and measures to combat the underground economy, tax fraud and contribution evasion.

**The "Greek problem" ultimately presents a major challenge to the viability of European integration and the values that sustain the European Social Model. It directly relates to how this is conceived by European citizens:**

- ü **The European Union cannot become a Bankers' Union** with stock exchange brokers "policing" the markets to ensure that the rich get richer while inequality, deprivation and insecurity soar.
- ü **The European Union needs to be there for its citizens** in a spirit of solidarity and cohesion to shield people and countries from the "vultures" of financial speculation.
- ü **The European Union needs to address** its social, democratic and ecological deficit and the problems of the economy by shifting away from the fixated belief in the supremacy markets over society towards a new architecture that puts people and solidarity first.

**IT IS TIME FOR TRADE UNION SOLIDARITY AGAINST THOSE WHO ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE EUROPEAN WORKERS BY POSING FALSE DILEMMAS.**

**TOGETHER WE CAN BETTER DEFEND OUR FUTURE AND MAKE SURE THE VOICE OF LABOUR IS CLEARLY AND LOUDLY HEARD.**