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# ETUCE

## European Trade Union Committee for Education EI European Region

**To: All ETUCE member organisations in Portugal**

Brussels, 22 March 2019

Ref.: SF/vd/10073

**Subject: Solidarity with all ETUCE member organisations in Portugal**

Dear colleagues,

With this letter ETUCE confirms its true solidarity with you and all your affiliates, in particular in the run-up to a large national demonstration of teachers and educators on 23 March 2019 in Lisbon.

Together with you, ETUCE shares your discontent with the Portuguese Government's explicit neglect leading to a protracted crisis in social dialogue in education in the country resulting in stagnation of teachers' working conditions.

According to you, the State Budget Law no. 36/2019 published on 15 March 2019 implies the recovery to teachers of only 2 years, 9 months and 18 days of the frozen service time despite wide criticism. Furthermore, taking into account teachers' pay scale grouping, this law entails an unequal distribution of recovery time for the frozen service.

ETUCE continues to advocate for the attractiveness of the teaching profession which directly depends on decent working conditions and salaries. Teachers in Portugal demand concrete and tangible improvements. They should not be punished and suffer unfair treatment for having provided quality service during times of recession and budget cuts in education. The government should stop making small concessions and make an important step in investing in teaching staff. Constructive social dialogue and real implementation of law provisions drafted and introduced on the ground of consultations and respect for the social partners is key for the successful functioning of education systems.

ETUCE stands with you in your fight. We wish you the best of success with the national demonstration.

In solidarity,

Susan Flocken  
European Director