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30.5.2013

Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho

[gabinete.pm@pm.gov.pt](mailto:gabinete.pm@pm.gov.pt)

Dear Prime Minister,

The Trade Union of Education, OAJ, Finland representing over 120.000 teachers wishes to express solidarity with teachers in Portugal and calls on the Portuguese government to withdraw its latest proposal, which seeks to dismiss thousands of teachers. The recent measures proposed by the government are more severe than ever before. Education is the most valuable sector in society to invest in to get out of the crisis. It is unacceptable that teaching hours are envisioned to increase to 40 per week while teachers' salaries are cut.

We have learnt from our Portuguese colleagues and the ETUCE that severe cuts in the education budget are envisioned in the budgetary amendment expected to come into force in the second half of 2013. As a result, there will be further school mergers, increased class sizes, greater segregation of students with special needs, less social support to families from poorer backgrounds and dismissals of other education employees. Cuts in the education budget will have adverse social effects and jeopardize the future of Portugal. The OAJ calls on the Portuguese government to ensure free and equal access to high quality public education.

The OAJ supports all who defend quality public education in Portugal and calls on the Portuguese government to invest in education and to immediately reverse unjust austerity measures.

Yours sincerely,  
OPETUSALAN AMMATTIJÄRJESTÖ OAJ

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Olli Luukkainen', is written over the typed name.

Olli Luukkainen  
President

cc. ETUCE, FENPROF, FNE, SINDEP