



| Stuttgart

Message of solidarity for the European Day of Action IG METALL STUTTGART

The global financial and economic crisis is in its fifth year. In southern Europe in particular people are suffering from the effects of a crisis which they were not responsible for. It is above all working people who have to bear the main burden of the crisis whereas the wealthy and those in the financial sector who caused it have been allowed to escape unscathed.

The harsh, one-sided austerity policy pursued by governments merely exacerbates the crisis and puts an unreasonable strain on working people who have to fear for their jobs – if they have not already lost them. Unemployment has been rising steadily, and youth unemployment is going to put a heavy burden on the countries concerned in the future. Wages are being cut, workers' rights undermined, pensions and benefits slashed – at a time when social protection is more necessary than ever.

Workers' rights are fundamental human rights. We strongly condemn the current attacks on collective bargaining autonomy and the dismantling of workers' rights. We do not need fewer rights and less protection for employees but we do need more democracy, social security and justice.

Instead of wrecking Europe with austerity policy we need solutions based on solidarity and a program for growth and employment. And we are not just talking about working conditions and future prospects for our colleagues in Spain, Greece, Ireland or Portugal – the crisis does not stop at national frontiers. If workers' rights are weakened all over Europe and demand continues to fall the crisis will sooner or later arrive at our own doorstep.

European integration is based on a common commitment to the creation of a democratic and social Europe – that includes strong work councils and trade unions, protection of collective bargaining autonomy and recognition of basic workers' rights. Only if we close ranks and work together will we be able to halt the intolerable cuts in social benefits and the dismantling of workers' rights. Together we call for a fair, democratic and social Europe and declare our solidarity with colleagues in all the countries of Europe.

We as trade unionist of IG Metall Stuttgart support a social Europe. We urgently demand to renew Europe around solidarity. Therefore we call our members in Stuttgart to join our public manifestation "For a Europe of work and solidarity" on the 14th of November in the city of Stuttgart.

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