



FENPROF – FEDERAÇÃO NACIONAL DOS PROFESSORES

## 31 OCTOBER - KNOWLEDGE WORKERS' STRIKE IN ITALY

### SOLIDARITY MESSAGE FROM FENPROF

On the day Italian knowledge workers are holding a strike called by the Federazione Lavoratori della Conoscenza (FLC CGIL), the Federação Nacional dos Professores (FENPROF) expresses its deep solidarity with all Italian workers who are fighting today for an increased investment in public education, stable and decent work for all knowledge workers, an above-inflation pay rise and the stabilization of casual workers, the withdrawal of measures leading to the regionalization of the education and research system, and also the respect of social dialogue and of the collective bargaining system.

For FENPROF, representing in Portugal teachers across the entire education sector and also researchers, all these are extremely important demands, also in Portugal and in many other countries. As the UN High Level Panel on the teaching profession has clearly stated, teacher shortages will only be reversed if there is political will to address problems such as uncompetitive salaries, unmanageable workloads, inadequate working conditions and precarious labour practices; if there is an adequate and predictable funding for public education - an investment of at least 6 per cent of GDP for education; and if teachers and their organisations are called upon to participate in social dialogue and collective bargaining, as the main means of developing policies in the area of education, teaching and the teaching profession. These recommendations are in line with ETUCE's campaign *Making teaching attractive* and EI's campaign *Go Public, Fund education!* and should be given particular attention and commitment.

FENPROF stands with the FLC-CGIL in the fight against austerity measures which will negatively impact on workers' salaries and contracts but also on the quality of public services. This is a fight in defence of the social functions of the state and of the trade union rights we have inherited from generations and generations of social and trade union activists. And, as Portugal celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 25<sup>th</sup> of April revolution, which put an end to 48 years of fascism, we also stand together against the rise of the extreme right in Europe, fighting for more equalitarian societies, stronger democracies and a more peaceful world.

Manuela Mendonça

President of FENPROF's National Board