

**President**

OLME  
Themis Kotsifakis, President  
2, Ermou and Kornarou Street

GR-Athens 0563

13 September 2013  
MT/mb/kg

**Solidarity with OLME's Strike in Greece Next Week**

Dear Themis,  
dear colleagues from OLME,



With this letter we would like to express our solidarity with your teachers' strike as of September 16 and your struggle to preserve public schools and vocational education in Greece. The policy of the Greek government and the Troika of ECB, the European Commission and IMF is wrong. The ongoing austerity measures are destroying the society and the quality of public education in your country. Discount education cannot be the solution for the current crisis in Greece.

Quality education should be considered as your government's most important tool to overcome the economic crisis and to secure a sustainable future. Instead of further cuts in education budgets, Greece and Europe need more investment in education. Therefore, the GEW, together with the German Trade Union Federation (DGB), demand a European Marshall-Plan in order to promote training and education and modernize and expand public and private infrastructure in Europe.

Vocational education is of particular importance for both individual professional development and the economic development of a society. The closing down of more than 100 public vocational education schools and the privatization of vocational education in Greece will lead to a decrease of quality in vocational training and profession. The Greek government must withdraw these decisions and abandon its efforts to dismiss thousands of teachers from the vocational education sector.

As chairperson of the German Education Union (GEW) I wish you all the strength you need in this struggle and large attendance in your strike activities next week.

Sincerely,



Marlis Tepe