

ETUC / DGB YOUTH – FES CONFERENCE STATEMENT ON GREECE

ETUC and DGB Youth trade union delegates meeting in Berlin on July 1-2 at the occasion of the “EU Youth 2020 Strategy” Conference express full solidarity to the Greek population and deep concern for the present and future of the European project.

Young generations in Greece and Europe are paying the unbearable price of a crisis we have no responsibility of.

European decision makers should think hard and long before pushing Greece out of the Eurozone, thus taking the whole continent and the EU project towards unexplored territories.

Workers and citizens, in particular youth, have been pushed into poverty, left unemployed or with precarious jobs and a lower youth minimum salary imposed by the Troika, forced to leave their countries and sometimes deprived of access to basic rights like health and education because of the austerity measures unilaterally imposed in the name of a recovery which never materialized. Austerity, unprecedented cuts to public finances and structural labour market reforms have proved to be a failure: further action in this direction is not an option.

There is an alternative: invest in the creation of quality jobs, restore collective bargaining, strengthen solidarity mechanisms and re-invest in key sectors that will boost Greek's and Europe's job rich recovery.

Governance and decision making processes at EU level need to be deeply reviewed with a citizenship and democracy-based approach: the Greek crisis is a clear demonstration of this.

As young people, we refuse to resign to be a lost generation. We'll engage to save the European project and its values: our generation has enjoyed peaceful decades without wars in a Union inspired by human rights, solidarity, freedom of movement and policies aimed at improving living and working conditions for all.