



This May 1st Wage recovery!

The trade union organizations members of the ECTUN are calling for a wage increase on May 1st, 2018 due to:

- For years, wages have been considered as the sole cost adjustment for recovery. But wage cuts and wage moderation did not bring back recovery. They only led to stagnation, increasing inequality and social hardship, increased job insecurity and worsening working conditions and increased poverty in European society.
- Workers are the ones who have paid the highest price for the crisis and they are still not feeling the economic recovery. According to recent research published by the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), wages are lower now than they were eight years ago, in seven EU member states. The research also shows that, in 18 EU countries, wages have grown much slower over the seven years after the crisis than in the eight years before that.
- Many organizations, such as the European Commission, recognize that domestic demand is the most important component of economic growth in Europe, therefore the higher the wage, the higher the domestic consumption.
- Boosting purchasing power is the key to driving economic growth in Europe, in our countries and in our Capital cities.
- Wages must be considered one of the main tools to sustain economic recovery, fight inequality, and ensure fairness in distribution of wealth.
- A pay rise is also necessary to fight precarious jobs, which are often jobs with low and unsecured wages, and in-work poverty, which has reached an unprecedented level in Europe. Today, in-work poverty affects 10% of European workers. Making sure that wages provide workers with a decent living must be an absolute priority!
- A wage increase is also needed to combat precarious jobs, which are often low-wage, insecure and temporary jobs. The policy of wage adjustment in Europe has increased working poverty to an unprecedented level in Europe. Today, working poverty affects 10% of European workers.

Ensuring that wages provide workers with a decent life must be an absolute priority!