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Rossana Dettori
General Secretary
FP-CGIL

London, 15th December 2011

Dear Rossana,

On behalf of UNISON I would like to send our full and wholehearted solidarity to you and the members of FP-CGIL for your General Strike on 19th December. I know that the many messages we received from around the world on 30th November were greatly appreciated by our members, many of whom were taking strike action for the first time in their lives, encouraged them in their strike action and reminded them that they were not alone. That is why I feel it is so important to send you this message today.

The unelected Monti government has no mandate from the Italian people for the devastating series of austerity measures it is imposing. In fact, the Italian people, through the recent popular referenda, showed their opposition to privatisation of public services, to cuts and to the attacks on the living standards of ordinary working Italians.

We know that austerity simply isn't working. After 18 months of austerity across Europe the sovereign debt crisis has worsened; economic growth has fallen abruptly in almost all countries; and unemployment has increased in those where the budgetary restrictions were the most severe. The social consequences of falling wages and pensions, cuts in spending to social welfare, education and health are obvious: an increase in poverty, rising inequality, an increase in vulnerable work and a strong erosion of social cohesion.

UNISON stands with you in demanding alternative fiscal, economic and social policies for Europe that focus on boosting growth and jobs. That is the only way out of this crisis.

Yours fraternally,

Dave Prentis
General Secretary



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

General Secretary Dave Prentis Deputy General Secretary Keith Sonnet