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File Reference: HE/CK/HR - -05.18.08  
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16 October, 2007

Dear Brother Podda,

### **Solidarity with public service workers strike action**

I write to express the support of Public Services International for the strike action called by CGIL, CSIL and UIL for 26 October 2007, in defence of the rights of public service workers in Italy.

PSI shares your concerns that, if implemented, the 2008 budget proposals could seriously undermine the rights and working conditions of public service workers by:

- Failing to allocate sufficient resources for the renewal of the public sector collective agreement for the period 2008-2009, thus affecting the rights, terms and conditions of more than 3 million public service workers in the healthcare, local government and fiscal sectors
- Cementing the use of precarious work contracts and outsourcing essential public services, which could have serious repercussions for the delivery of the services
- Increasing the already high tax burden of public sector employees

We wish your action every success and trust that the united force of the Italian public service workers will bring the Italian Government to the negotiating table with the trade unions. The budget proposals for 2008 has to be reviewed to ensure that the rights and working conditions of Italy's valued public service workers are not adversely affected.

PSI is the Global Union Federation representing some 20 million working women and men in public services.

In Solidarity,

Hans Engelberts  
General Secretary A.I.

cc EPSU/PSI Liaison office  
ITUC Geneva & Brussels