

To CGIL

Ref: JWG/mv

Brussels, 11 December 2025

Dear Colleagues,

EPSU stands in full solidarity with CGIL and all workers taking part in the general strike on 12 December. The decision to call a nationwide action across all public and private sectors reflects the seriousness of the challenges facing working people in Italy. The 2026 budget law fails to respond to the realities of rising living costs, growing precariousness and the deepening crisis of public services.

Workers and pensioners have carried an unfair tax burden, paying billions more in recent years due to fiscal drag, while essential public services have been left without the funding needed to guarantee access to healthcare, education, long-term care, housing and safe working environments. At the same time, resources continue to be diverted into military spending, removing funds from the social and economic priorities that matter for society.

The concerns raised about the worsening pension framework, reduced retirement flexibility and the proposed increase in retirement age highlight the disproportionate pressure placed on those who already sustain the country's welfare and economic system. The ongoing decline in industrial capacity and the lack of real employment opportunities for young people demand urgent and coordinated action.

EPSU supports your objectives: fair wage growth through collective bargaining, stronger public services, a just and progressive tax system, an end to precarious work, adequate resourcing for public sector agreements, and investments that secure decent jobs and gender equality. We agree that addressing these priorities requires both fair taxation of profits and large fortunes and a clear shift away from policies that fuel rearmament at the expense of communities.

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We also recognise that your strike is part of a wider mobilisation across Italy. Unions are organizing actions and demonstrations calling for investment in public services, support for public health, better pensions, and decent pay for all public service workers. Together, we stand with you in your efforts to defend and advance the rights of workers and to secure the pay increases and protections they deserve.

In solidarity,



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary

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