



Rome 1 March 2018

Dear comrades dear colleagues

I thank you in the name of the General Union of Base- SGB, for the honor you recognized with the invitation to the work of the FISE Congress, unfortunately I can not intervene in person. The situation in Italy is really complicated right now and we have to use all our resources to carry out our task.

Only a few days have been signed the National Contracts of the entire Public Employment and also of the School, the worst since 1945, and in recent months we are preparing the elections of the Trade Union Representatives on jobs.

Giving up today to your work is very difficult, my experience at the FISE congress in Venezuela was very important to consolidate the awareness of the importance of having an international vision of the class struggle and, in particular, of the ongoing processes in education and education. Meeting you has allowed us to feel the embrace of solidarity internationalist of the many companions and classmates who struggle for freedom and peace in class organizations.

It was 2012, I gave you a report on the state of decline of the Italian education system and on the responsibilities of the EU. The movement of the school in Italy was still in struggle after the reform of the right-wing government Berlusconi who fired over 200 thousand workers and imposed the cut of the expenditure of the heaviest education that at the time was remembered, we had suffered a serious blow but still the workers and basic unions had a certain following because the struggle had been conducted even if with different errors.

Six years have passed and the governments of center-left austerity of the European Bank, first of Monti and then of Renzi, have taken all the results of the serious blow to the "structure" of education; without modifying anything of the previous laws, they took away the soul from the little public school that remained.

The reform of the "Good School" (for Masters), has completed the process of privatization, has given more money to private school and runs the public school as if it were private: the dream of every master, ensure the training of new generations of workers without critical culture, already subjected to the idea to be a slave.

They have given greater powers to the School Officials to control the workers, with "4 coins" for the prizes to their servants, they have more power in the disciplinary, for transfers from one school to another or changes in professorship, they have the possibility to make assumptions direct and choose the teachers who are most obedient to them. The few recruits, however, do not cover the number of retiring workers and have lower payouts (up to one thousand euros a year) than their colleagues hired before 2012 and so the precarious rate remains high, other than European sentence for hiring after 36 months of precarious work!

For students this translates into higher costs for taxes and books and the number of students who leave school is getting bigger, and those who remain leave with an improper preparation. Students are obliged to do 400 hours of Alternating School Work, removed from class time, and go to work without pay in companies, with the illusion of having a job after school. The private enterprise enters the school directly and dictates its rules and its study programs, especially in the technical and professional training where the children of the workers attend the greatest number.

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However, the school movement was not able to oppose it in the necessary way. The mistakes of the past have been repeated, the empiricism of the corporate committees, the opportunistic trust in the collaborative unions of the ETUC, and the basic syndicalism unable to overcome its narrow perspective of immediate survival that did not allow it to face the clash until at bottom.

We have lost, and now everyone is in it we pay the consequences, while the gifts to the bosses and the military expenses increase (+ 10% in a year) and the war is affecting our brother neighbors as in Palestine or Syria. The National Contract not only gives us a ridiculous increase of 3.4% and steals 10 years of arrears (almost 10 thousand euros per worker) but above all assumes all the worst laws of these decades and absorbs the conditions imposed by the bosses on democratic liberties and unions, shared by the unions and accomplices unfortunately signed by USB and Cobas who have accepted the blackmail.

After the first agreement in the private sector on the representativeness of the trade union of 10 January 2014, also in contracts in the civil service was removed power to the Labor Union Representatives, prohibition to hold an assembly for the representative of non-signatory unions, increase of the ban period to strike up to 4 months during bargaining.

It is news yesterday that the collaborationist unions have signed another agreement with the owners: for the approval of the law on trade union representation and defined a model of bargaining. National bargaining is limited, used to establish the "minimum economic treatment" according to parameters that bring it far below inflation, while the second level (territorial) must be linked to productivity (meritocracy) and "corporate welfare" with the deduction of part of the salary to pay for private health insurance, social security, education or cultural activities, generally managed by the trade unions themselves or by the owner.

So while the European Court legitimizes the dismissal of pregnant women, in Italian national contracts the right to the disease is attached and paid leave to women who suffer violence but if the child falls ill on the holiday they must give them work colleagues!

It is clear that the more you go to blackmail the more the bosses claim.

Worrying is the effect that this defeat is producing on the conscience of the workers, the lack of trust and the surrender in the workplace in front of the arrogance of the managers even when it is obviously outlawed, becomes our main problem.

A few months ago for a ruling by the Council of State, 50,000 qualified masters already in service, many for decades, have been denied the opportunity to go from precarious to permanent employment after 7 thousand of them thanks to judgments of the Courts of work had succeeded in having a permanent position and at the end of the year will find themselves again precarious. This bitter experience has made it even more evident that it is not possible to think of replacing the trade union struggle with legal disputes, that the same class struggle takes place in the courts with the balance of power that is established in the workplace. We are supporting their struggle even with the unitary strike with basic syndicalism, looking for to give a broader content, because the other element that also characterizes these struggles is the corporatism that breaks solidarity and leads to defeat.

Worrying is the inability of the basic syndicalism to overcome its limits, in this age of full betrayal of the class of workers of the ETUC trade unions, and indeed the assumption by a part of it of the opportunism of the most corporeal vulgarity up to the exposure declared in the tomorrow's March 4 political elections, which creates no little confusion and often opens up conflicts between the interests of workers and the coalitions they support.

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All this workers perceive it, albeit distant from the trade union dynamics. If this is added to the economic attack and the lengthening of the retirement age of women (the majority of workers are women) we have a category mostly worn out, with the young generations unemployed or assumed in conditions much worse than the previous ones.

SGB and CUB not they are bent and together we are struggling in the workplaces to reconquer, trade-union rights, without the permission of the bosses.

SGB has only two years of life, we do not pretend to be the only ones to have the reasons or the representation of the workers' struggle movement in our country, this gives us the certainty that if we can resist the attacks of the bosses we can bring our contribution to the construction of a strong class union in our country: this is our task!

At the moment we can only feed on the strength and determination of the millions of teachers and teachers, professors and students all over the world, even at the cost of their lives, of the harsh repression at the hands of the imperialist iron heel.

We are with the FISE and today we can, realistically, only bring our contribution of experience and analysis of what is happening in Italy and in Europe, we ask to stay in touch and exchange the news on what happens in the respective countries and on the initiatives that the FISE promotes so that they can be distributed among Italian workers and when possible actively support them.

We are interested in developing our action on some issues in particular: the struggle for freedom of teaching, against meritocracy, for the reappropriation of the history of the workers' movement against fascist revisionism and the "business culture"; fight against military spending, against war, the construction of a movement of teachers for peace and public schools; against the repression of teachers and all workers as well as students, for freedom of expression and organization.

We still hear the cries of a teacher from Turin against the police who defended a fascist demonstration, but even more arrogance is the same arrogance of Renzi (candidate for the center-left government) Salvini (candidate from the right) that in electoral campaign closure declared without any fear that "the teacher should be fired!"

Comrades and colleges, the task of teachers, of school workers is to defend and regain education and education to the children of all workers.

Because no worker, no employee takes off his hat at the passage of the master!

Honor to the masters and students who fell in the struggle for public school for all, solidarity of class to those who are resisting.

Long live the FISE

Long live the Unions of Class!

A special greeting on my part to Comrade Chrysoula Lampoudi, to comrades Orlando Perez and Valentin Pacho for the great work you do every day to bring the working class banner high, with great affection

Barbara Battista
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