



### Common statement of French trade unions

## **On October 13<sup>th</sup>, in France and across Europe, let us mobilize against austerity, for wages and gender equality!**

Back from the holiday season, the purchasing power and the increase of wages, pensions and social minima are always the priority demands for the world of work. Anger over pension reform is intact and thousands of workers will be penalized by its forced implementation on 1 September.

While profits are exploding in most large companies, more than ever a better sharing of the wealth produced is imperative. Ad hoc and mostly government-funded measures are insufficient to meet inflation and rising costs such as energy, food, housing... Our organizations reaffirm together that this issue requires an increase in the minimum wage and wage policies in the branches, companies and public services. We call on employers to open negotiations at all levels. This better distribution of wealth to the benefit of employees is also a powerful lever for action in the fight against inequality, especially between women and men.

This year again, the summer highlighted the dramatic consequences of climate change and the need to engage in a socially just ecological transition. We are all concerned. The impacts of this just ecological transition are multiple and concern both the activities, working conditions, occupations, jobs, qualifications and skills. To meet this major challenge, immediate solutions must be provided, impacts must be anticipated and investments must be prepared, secure the employment of workers and involve them in the choices that affect them. Instead, the industry continues to be weakened by shareholder pressure.

The Finance and the Social Security Finance Acts in preparation must be up to the challenges of today and tomorrow. For our organizations, these Acts must bring social justice. In this context, the conditionality of the 150 to 200 billion annual aid to companies must be discussed. Both Acts must strengthen our public services, starting with hospitals, schools, higher education and research...

National negotiations that will be held, particularly on supplementary pensions and on the unemployment insurance scheme, in the coming months will be crucial to create and strengthen the social rights of workers. Our organizations reaffirm the need to meet the democratic aspirations of workers for better collective representation by revisiting the "Labour Orders" and the Public Service Transformation Act.

All these topics are shared at European level. Our organizations, together with the European trade union movement, are mobilized for solidarity, a just green transition and against austerity policies. Our organizations call for a day of mobilization and demonstration on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 against austerity and for pay rises, pensions and gender equality.

Our organizations will meet again in September to prepare for this day.

Paris, 28 August 2023