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DATE  
6 November 2012

OUR REFERENCE

YOUR DATE

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Mr Mariano Rajoy Brey  
Prime Minister of Spain

Palacio de la Moncloa  
28071 Madrid

[secretariapresidente@presidencia.gob.es](mailto:secretariapresidente@presidencia.gob.es)

Mr. Prime Minister,

I am writing to you as president of LO, The Swedish Trade Union Confederation, to express my concerns about the circumstances that have led the Spanish trade unions to call for a general strike on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November.

The consequences of the austerity policies are devastating for the workers and citizens in a number of European countries, among them Spain. Indeed even the IMF now admits that they grossly miscalculated the impact austerity measures have on growth. This miscalculation has an unmeasurable impact on the daily life of workers and citizens throughout Europe, and brings into question the whole basis of the currently pursued austerity policies. The injustice and inefficiency of these measures, against which the unions have always warned, have been proven to be correct.

The austerity policies adopted by the EU and your government in Spain are not only socially unacceptable but also clearly not working economically. Far from re-establishing confidence, these measures only serve to worsen economic performance and to increase injustice.

Our Spanish trade union colleagues witness of the injustice in the austerity policies pursued. They have a clear antisocial nature, including measures such as co-payments for healthcare, cuts in healthcare, in social services, dependency aid and education; the reduction of the salaries of civil servants; furthermore, cuts in the unemployment allowances; the privatisation of the railways, etc.

The Spanish workers and trade unions are already experiencing the effects of the last labour law reform that your government put in place. As a consequence, unemployment and industrial disputes are on the rise.

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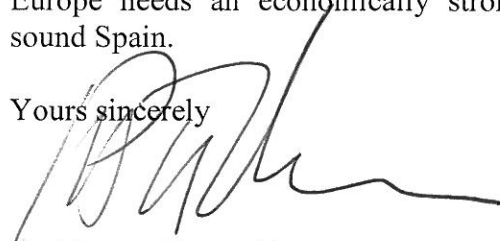
**The Swedish Trade Union Confederation**

I believe it is time for you, and the rest of the European leaders and institutions, to start a new policy for Europe. The question that has to be answered is how Europe can manage fiscal consolidation while fostering a new kind of growth - green, smart and inclusive - that will be necessary to maintain Europe's competitive advantage in a globalised world. This cannot be achieved without an increase in effective demand in the economy.

We as trade unionists in Europe demand measures that foster the economy and create employment. We need a competitive industrial sector that is based on investment in research and development, and on an education system that stands up for quality and equity. Social dialogue and social consensus are key elements and have to be re-established in order to ensure correct democratic performance.

Europe needs an economically strong, socially fair and democratically sound Spain.

Yours sincerely



Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson

President

The Swedish Trade Union Confederation - LO

CC: Mr Javier Jimenez-Ugarte Hernández, Ambassador of Spain in Stockholm