



INTERSYNDICAL REJECTS THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AGREEMENT THE INTERSYNDICAL CONFEDERATION WILL ENCOURAGE PROTESTS

The Intersyndical Confederation (Spanish confederate labor unions) values very negatively and rejects without palliative the Social and Economic Agreement signed by the Spanish government, the unions UGT and CCOO, along with the Spanish Confederation of Business Organizations (CEOE) and the Spanish Confederation of Small and Medium Business (CEPYME). For the Confederation, the agreement implies a cut -an unprecedented decision- of the state pensions and a unjustifiable surrender to the dictations of the market, of the banking and of the financial international system.

The Social and Economic Agreement, signed last February 2, 2011, is part and parcel of the politics of cuts in social, economic and labor rights, as well as the dismantling of the welfare state which began with the adjustment plan in May, went on with the labor reform and, so far, it culminates with the "pensionazo" (retirement pensions reform).

The Intersyndical Confederation objected to the adjustment plan and to the labor reform summoning the Strike of government employees and the General Strike on September 29. In addition, it has been summoning, in all the territories, protests to force the Spanish government to a change of politics. For this reason, and because its rejection of the *pensionazo*, last January 27, it summoned and backed the General Strike in Galiza and Euskadi as well as gatherings and demonstrations in many cities.

The Intersyndical Confederation did not call for the hard-working class to go on strikes and demonstrations to end up signing an agreement that will impoverish those who retire. This will be, undoubtedly, the result of the increase on the retirement age to 67 years; of the increase of the period of calculation from 15 years to 25; of the increase from 35 to 37 years so as to be entitled to receive the maximum pension; and so the fact that the automatic revaluation of the pensions is not guaranteed.

All these measures that attack directly the workers as a whole- since they will have to work more years to receive a lower pension-, will have a special and negative impact amongst women, whose working lives are discontinuous because of the feminization of care, and amongst youth and immigrants who join up the labor market later and have part-time contracts.

In addition, the measures taken to encourage part-time contracts for people under 30 means that the duality of the labor market will increase: those people with a stable and full-time contract will be increasingly replaced by others in worse working conditions.

The signatory parts have decided to create a subsidy of 400 Euros for unemployed persons who have finished up the unemployment benefit and agree to carry out activities orientated to his or her professional requalification. The Intersyndical Confederation always said that the 426 Euros subsidy was insufficient, so we now found ridiculous those 400 euros. We demand employment for everybody or a decent unemployment benefit.

Moreover, specific measures are not included in order that those groups of workers who have lost their jobs or have seen their wages reduced, may join up the labor market soon or recover their lost salary.

The Social and Economic Agreement implies a clear and express acceptance of the labor reform approved by the Government, since its only promise is that of negotiating the regulations that are going to develop it. We think that the unions' fail in their duty of defending social and labor rights will bring new aggressions and new unions' concessions.

The Intersyndical Confederation considers that this cut of the retirement pension recently signed should not be approved at the Spanish Parliament nor should be those other measures which imply a cut on rights. No member of the Parliament of any political party has been chosen with this kind of measures in his or her party's program, so they lack the political legitimacy to do so.

For all this, the Intersyndical Confederation proposes to call for protests in every territory of the estate, as well as a demonstration in Madrid of all the unions, social and political organizations that reject both the Social and Economic Agreement and the politics of cuts and adjustments instigated by the government.

All this in order to create the conditions that allow the expression of a massive rejection from workers and citizens of these antisocial measures, as well as of those others which are already been prepared in education, health or cuts of the autonomous regions.

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