

## **GSEE AND ADEDY CALL GENERAL STRIKE ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2012**

GSEE and ADEDY have called a **nationwide 24-hour strike for September 26, 2012** to protest the proposed new Government package of anti-labour, anti-social measures will once more severely hit the working people and pensioners of Greece, and refuel the recession/austerity vicious circle that methodically pushes the country over the edge.

This round of deep wage and pensions cuts across the board, welfare slashes, tax hikes, layoffs and express privatisations is accompanied by more Troika pressure to further destroy labour and its institutions.:

- A leaked 'confidential' Troika letter now ordains the government to further reduce the minimum wage—slashed only last February to sub-subsistence levels—and establish "a single-rate statutory minimum wage on a permanent basis legislated by the government". Dictates also include a six-day work week, longer working hours with an 11-hour minimum rest period for a five-day pay, a yet shorter notice period and less severance pay. Retirement age is to be raised to 67.

With wartime recession levels, 1.15 million Greeks without a job and youth unemployment at 54.9% and 30% of the population pushed below the poverty line, Greece since 2010 has effected the greatest fiscal adjustment among OECD countries over the last 30 years thanks to the impoverishment of Greeks, the destitution of pensioners and the destruction of the country's productive base. In the meantime, the country's entire labour legislation is being destroyed, hard won labour rights smashed to no apparent effect despite the 'competitiveness

For two-and-a-half years the manifestly lethal IMF-EU-ECB formula has failed on every single target rendering Greece's sovereign debt unsustainable and propelling the country at an exponential rate towards economic and social collapse and political instability. Yet more of the poisonous recipe is being delivered to impose new hardship on people and derail the country.

load continue to rise demanding new sacrifices and further cuts.

Greek government and the although everyone knows that the recipe of the Memoranda has failed, insist on the same austerity dictates, including a new round income, will push the Greek economy into even deeper recession and will destroy hard won employment rights and our labour relations system on the pretext of "competitiveness".

for dismissals in the public and the wider public sector and a rearrangement of the working week in the private sector.

The Greek Prime Minister who has abandoned his pre-electoral pledges not to impose more austerity, is discussing now further cutbacks instead of searching for solutions to combat underground economy, tax fraud and speculation.

**We reject** the new government austerity package which is expected to worsen hardship in the country. Due to the sharp cuts in social spending, the merger and abolition of social agencies and services, public goods like education, healthcare,

welfare and social security are collapsing. The measures strike once again the country's most vulnerable groups –workers, pensioners and the poor – and have done nothing to combat tax evasion or address the problem of undeclared work.

Greek workers, pensioners and the unemployed are prepared to fight a prolonged battle against neoliberal policies and the unfair austerity measures.

**Through unity and joint action we can reverse this dramatic situation. Together we can protect and safeguard social rights, labour and democratic institutions. Together we can be stronger and more effective.**

**We must save the country and this starts by saving the people of Greece!**