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REF.: JWG/EA/296 World Water Day 22 March 2006
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Subject: World Water Day on 22 March 2006

Dear Colleagues,

EPSU, the European Federation of Public Service Unions, has learned about the strike the FP CGIL, CISL FPS and UIL FPL regional branches are organising against management of Abbanoa, the drink water operator of Sardegna, on World Water Day 22 March. EPSU expresses its solidarity with the striking workers who stand up for affordable water and oppose unjust increases in rates for citizens, who defend employment and stable jobs and fight dismissals and precarious jobs. You argue for an efficient water system on the island which prevents that water is spoiled and wasted, very appropriate themes on World Water Day.

Your action is part of a series of actions taking place across the world in which trade unions, environmental organisations, development groups and water activists demand that water services are not commercialised and continue to be regarded as essential and public services. EPSU itself will be part of an action in Brussels together with the Belgian unions and water activist groups to argue that water should remain outside of the scope of the Bolkestein Directive, outside of GATS, that the Commission should take an initiative to make access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation services a human right. The Commission should also stop pushing privatisation in developing countries through its promotion of public-private partnership. The action itself will draw attention to the corporate lobby of AquaFed, the private sector water companies. All these actions make clear that we want another world and that another world is possible.

We wish you much success with the strike,

In Solidarity,

Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU Deputy General Secretary

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