



## FINAL DOCUMENT

The Public Services Trade Unions of the Mediterranean Group gathered for the XXVIII extraordinary meeting on September 25th 2006, after an intense and in depth debate, hold that:

a strong public services union voice widely acknowledged, democratic and representative, that gives great attention to solidarity is needed, to face the globalization process, the political and juridical identity of the EU and its rough constitutional procedure, the social and economical policies of the European Union (that have produced many dangerous initiatives, starting from the so called Bolkestein directive), the campaign for a European legal framework of public services, the strong development of a European social dialogue also in the field of public services, the enlargement of the EU.

EPSU has been engaged in recent years in measuring itself against these problems, and the urgent need has emerged to support and strengthen its capacity for proper union action.

The creation of a new pan-European organization, strongly supportive, that speaks to a political Europe rather than to a geographical Europe, across the merger of EPSU and PSI Europe also, must give an answer to these demands: give an ever stronger voice - in Europe - to the European men and women workers.

This is the reason why the merger with PSI Europe must not simply be an organization and/or administrative answer. Therefore the Mediterranean Group asks that the process started be pursued with attention and with wisdom, step by step, without useless acceleration, with convinced participation on behalf of all parties, so that in the end the result can be that of placing at every member's disposition a new body that will become a more efficient and democratic tool than the one they had begun to know and appreciate in Europe today.

The new Federation must not jeopardize the present working structure of EPSU, it must defend and take voices to the workers, it must guarantee its

independence and efficiency in defending public services in the European Union and must be based upon the ability to mobilization, to exercise pressure, and to the development of social dialogue and collective bargaining.

The new pan-European federation must be actively engaged in European Neighbourhood policy (particularly in the Mediterranean<sup>1[1]</sup>).

For these reasons EPSU's political, financial and organizational independence must be recognized in the new federation's constitution where it must maintain its denomination, strongly acknowledged and respected in Europe.

The Mediterranean Group approves the preparatory document of the extraordinary meeting of September 25th, that presents some reflections and some political, budgetary and organizational questions, leaving the development of the details to that which arises from internal debate of the working group, considering the positions of the diverse constituencies and above all within the elected governing bodies of the Federation and of PSI.

In general, however, it wants to point out that

- The most fitting political solution in this setting, for a European Trade Union with a strong identity and solidly independent, is direct affiliation, as a single subject, of EPSU to the new federation, in particular for what attains to a planetary union;
- It is necessary to hold well in mind the effects of the enlargement process, giving attention to the policies of a European Union of 25 (soon 27), upon which only the unions from the countries that are directly interested can decide.

From the point of organization

- The current standing (sectoral) committees (national administration, local and regional government, health and public utilities) must be maintained .
- The new organization must actively and concretely deal with gender equality, migrant and youth policies and find the right way to develop and implement growth of the policies.

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<sup>1</sup> As indicate in David Hall's document, PSIRU EPSU-PSI "*The EU Neighbourhood policy (ENP) - implications for public services and unions*", May 2006, of the 17 countries interested by the neighbourhood policy, a good 10 are part of the Euro Mediterranean area (Algeria, Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia)

- Sub regional constituencies must be maintained along with a representative body of the same within the new federation.
- The new affiliation fee must produce, for the unions affiliated, an over-all cost reduction (it cannot just be a simple sum of the current fees) and a new balance between European and global rates.
- The new federation must not unbalance the current EPSU budget.

Upon these themes the Mediterranean Group gives mandate to its representatives in the Working Group EPSU-PSI (whom Rosa Pavanelli has been indicated as spokeswomen) to exhibit and defend the position emerging from the Palermo debate. The representatives, across the Group Coordination, will inform the components of the results of the next meeting in Geneva (9-10 October) and propose the subsequent actions, also through a permanent forum and a web-site.

The Group will assess the situation at the next meeting in Spain, where the role of the Mediterranean Group, in particular, in respect to the *EU Neighbourhood policy*, will be analyzed.

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