



K.T.O.E.Ö.S.

Cyprus Turkish Secondary Education Teachers Union

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STOP SEVERE MEASURES AND INVEST IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

Dear Minister of Education and Science, *Nuno Crato*

KTOEÖS, is a founding member of Education International, world's largest federation of unions, representing thirty million education employees in about four hundred organisations in one hundred and seventy countries and territories, across the globe, and a member of ETUCE representing 11 million members all over Europe.

Our union calls on the Portuguese government to withdraw its latest proposal, which seeks to dismiss thousands of teachers without any support 18 months after losing their job. The recent measures proposed by your government is unacceptable as the cuts in the education budget will affect the functioning of schools, the quality of education and the social support to students and their families. Moreover teaching hours are envisioned to increase to 40 per week while teachers' salaries are cut and there will be further school mergers, increased class sizes, greater segregation of students with special needs, less social support to families from poorer backgrounds and dismissals of other education employees.

The troika of international lenders – the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank – must not pressure and impose the EU governments to implement severe cuts in the education budget. The governments must bare in mind that cuts in the education budget will have adverse social effects and jeopardize the future of Portugal, which may lead to a bigger crises.

Because of this, KTOEÖS deplores these measures and calls EU Governments to immediately investment in the education sector.

KTOEÖS, supports all who defend quality public education in Portugal and calls on the Portuguese government to invest in education, to immediately reverse unjust austerity measures and to ensure free and equal access to high quality public education in Portugal.

Sincerely,

Tahir GÖKÇEBEL
President of KTOEÖS
On behalf of the Administrative Board



A founder of Education International