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Datum  
24 October 2011  
Ons kenmerk

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Onderwerp  
Expression of solidarity

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Caros camaradas,

With this letter I wish to convey my support to your fight against the Portuguese Government's austerity measures. The measures are draconic. It is truly worrisome that the Portuguese Government is "forced" by the Troika to cut down employment protection legislation, social protection legislation and access to health care services.

This is indeed "uma política de terra queimada". These proposals not only hit workers and their families too hard, but they infringe the freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining.

Fundamental social rights that are not only enshrined in national law, but in the European Treaties with its Charter of Fundamental Rights, and in International Human Rights Conventions as well. Still, they are being infringed upon.

In times like these the trade union movement has to stand together. We have to join forces to give a strong workers' response to the anti-social measures. Please know that my thoughts are with you, and with "os trabalhadores e trabalhadoras Português" in these difficult times.

I sincerely hope that the number of people joining the "Greve Geral" on November 24<sup>th</sup> will be very large and diverse.

Saudações fraternais,

  
Agnes Jongerius,  
President of FNV

*Best wishes and  
good luck!*