



## AGAINST THE CRISIS, PROTECTING WORKERS

1. Currently, in Portugal, we are facing social deregulation and super-austerity policies that systematically intensify unemployment (which is reaching unsustainable levels), reduce income, aggravate social imbalance, poverty and exclusion and generate insecurity and despair in many families.
2. UGT has firmly opposed these policies. We have fought abusive measures and eradicated many (the extra half hour of daily working time, the increase of TSU – Portuguese acronym to identify Social Security Tax, the 10% cut on the unemployment and social unemployment benefits...), having achieved significant changes in the economic and social policies. We stand up for policies that promote growth and employment, social dialogue and collective bargaining and we strongly oppose the destruction of the Welfare State (namely via constitutional review).
3. Next Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, following UGT's National Secretariat's decision, some of UGT's trade unions presented strike notices aiming at joint action or converging strikes against this austerity and supporting the European Social Compact, which are the basis of the European Day of Action on November 14<sup>th</sup>.
4. There are specific and general reasons for this protest, such as the demand for dialogue and negotiation, especially concerning the Public Administration and the State-owned Enterprises (SOEs), as well as many situations of blockage concerning collective bargaining and the sharp rise of unemployment in the Private Sector.
5. There are reasons for many trade unions to considerer that this is not the right moment to go on strike (even if they presented strike notices in order to better support those members who are willing to adhere to it), either because of the reasons for this strike or because they feel that the best way to support their associates is through dialogue or by promoting fight actions at another time.
6. UGT rejects the absence of political dialogue and the imposition of social measures that aggravate inequalities (punishing, above all, active workers, unemployed and pensioners), that contribute to the worsening of the economic crisis and unemployment and which neglect commitments made by the Government.
7. UGT reaffirms its determination in defending a way out of the crisis with Growth and Employment, with Social Justice and Solidarity and with Social Dialogue and Collective Bargaining.

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