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PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL | September 2010

Massive protest march in Brussels rejects European austerity plans

More than 100,000 trade unionists from throughout Europe took to the streets of Brussels on 29 September to oppose austerity measures which, if governments do not change direction, will have disastrous social and economic results. The European Federation of Public Service Unions led hundreds of members from several countries, saying "No to austerity - Priority for jobs and growth!" and "Against cuts in public services!" and calling for public investment on public services.

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French unionists strike for pension rights

Trade unionists in France took to the streets on 23 September in defence of their pension rights. Under the Sarkozy government, the proposed pension reform will push the minimum retirement age from 60 to 62. This will affect women, in particular, as many women take extended breaks in their professional careers in order to raise families or take care of elders.

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World day for decent work 7 October 2010

The third World day for decent work (WDDW) will take place on 7 October. This year, PSI affiliates will be especially interested that one of the main themes is "Quality public services are essential for a decent life and must not be slashed in the name of fiscal consolidation."

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Job creation, not austerity measures

The employment crisis requires support for job creation, not austerity. Global Unions urge the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to adopt policies that confront the global employment crisis and contribute to a sustainable recovery, and not allow private financial institutions to dictate a shift to austerity policies that will cause long-term economic and social damage.

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Quality public services key to sustainable economic solutions

Answers to the global economic crisis can include things as simple as providing quality public early childhood education. Evidence backing this and other innovative responses to current social challenges will be presented at the landmark **Quality Public Services – Action Now!** conference, 12-14 October in Geneva, Switzerland. [READ MORE >](#)

PCS and UNISON forge alliance to fight cuts

Two of the UK's biggest public sector unions, UNISON and PCS, representing 1.7 million workers, have pledged to work in alliance against the coalition government's cuts to jobs and services. The unions will campaign, co-ordinate and, where possible, take action in unity and support of each other.

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How Paris regained control of water management

In January 2010, Paris water services were returned to public hands. Anne Le Strat, deputy mayor and head of Eau de Paris, has written a chapter for the publication "Reclaiming Public Water", available on the Transnational Institute website.

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Where the money goes

The UK Trades Union Congress has published a new report entitled *Where the money goes: How we benefit from public services*. It estimates the value of the public services from which households benefit, according to different income groups and regions. [READ MORE >](#)

Labour rights at the heart of quality public services

Close to 300 trade unionists attended PSI's 10th Inter-American Regional Conference (IAMRECON) and related meetings held in Cartagena, Colombia on 7-12 September 2010. This gathering brings together PSI affiliates from North, South and Central America and the Caribbean every five years.

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