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Rossana Dettori  
General Secretary FP CGIL  
Via Leopoldo Serra, 31  
00153 Roma  
Italy

London, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Dear Rossana,

**Re: Italian General Strike, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

On behalf of UNISON I would like to send our solidarity and support to you, your federation and the whole CGIL confederation as you prepare for the general strike you have called on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

We share your concerns that the reforms currently being promoted by the Italian government such as the reform of public administration and the so-called 'Jobs Act' will only serve to aggravate the problems facing the Italian economy. Our experience in the UK shows that weakening employment protection for workers does not lead to the creation of stable, long-term, well-paid jobs. Instead it will lead to a proliferation in short-term, part-time, low-paid and precarious employment.

In the UK the government has failed to meet its own target to cut the budget deficit because the jobs that have been created in the last four years are so poorly paid that the workers earn too little to pay tax. Instead, we have had a huge increase in the 'working poor' – people who have jobs but cannot afford to live on the wages they earn. That is why there has been a huge increase in the number of people using food banks at the end of each month as they try to feed their families.

Unfortunately governments across Europe remain committed to the double agenda of austerity and liberalisation despite the proven failure to return our economies back to the levels of growth needed to reverse the effect of the financial crisis of 2008. On behalf of UNISON I wish you success for your actions on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Yours in solidarity,



Dave Prentis  
General Secretary, UNISON

