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European Trade Union Committee for Education EI European Region

TO: Federaþia Naþionalã Sindicalã ALMA MATER
ETUCE Member in Romania

Brussels, 27 May 2016

Ref.: MR/AKR/9832

**Subject: Solidarity with the ETUCE member organisation Federaþia Naþionalã Sindicalã
ALMA MATER in Romania**

Dear colleagues,

The ETUCE wishes to express its full solidarity with you and all your members in Romania for the current country wide protest actions and next week's rally in Bucharest.

Your organisation decided to join several days of protest under the slogan "Together for Education!". Since yesterday, all Romanian high schools' teachers and students have protested in the school yards to the ongoing sound of the school bells. On 1 June 2016, you expect about 15.000 teachers to come out on the streets of Bucharest to gather outside the building of government, then to walk through town and to the Palace of the Romanian President. With this action, you'll give a strong signal for the importance to invest more means into public education. ETUCE welcomes your action launched and wishes you great success!

This is a good time for you to demand an increase of the teachers' salaries. It is clearly an economic and social misjudgment in the current situation to almost undermine the education system, to jeopardize and weaken essentially our sector which was identified as one of the key sectors to lead Europe out of the economic crisis. It is only fair that you raise your voice for an increase of the teachers' wages which has apparently not happened for a long time and led to such unjustified and unacceptable differences between the different public sectors. With this demand for a fair pay it is also about the recognition of the daily contributions and the high performance of teachers.

ETUCE stands unreservedly with the demonstrating people and supports their fair demands for a change of the current shortsighted policy of saving in public education. ETUCE believes that its members' continuous efforts in reminding their governments of their responsibility towards the Romanian citizens in this respect will finally lead to success. This is why ETUCE thanks all the demonstrators engaged in the current days of action for their important contribution which they make to build a better future through their active defense of the quality in education. ETUCE encourages them strongly to keep their unbroken trust in the accuracy and validity of their values.

ETUCE hopes for a stop to this worrying development and instead for an immediate start of an open and constructive dialogue involving the social partners on a regular basis on this very key issue but in the future also on other issues of joint concern. This is what the citizens

in Romania and everywhere else in Europe deserve. This is what students and parents expect for their future. This is what needs to be done to protect quality education in Romania.

We do sincerely hope that with your action you will achieve a constructive and sustainable situation in the long term. ETUCE will keep supporting you and your members.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Rømer', with a stylized, cursive script.

Martin Rømer
European Director