

Dear comrades and companions ,

This is not an ordinary congress. We are in a difficult delicate moment for our continent and for the people we represent for the world. Wars, the economic crisis, and the return of anti-democratic far-right nationalist movements not only in Europe in the world and the responses that institutions starting with the European institutions are weak or wrong. We are not building a sustainable future for boys and girls , strengthening democratic processes, ensuring quality jobs and a strong public school and university.

The answer of European institutions and countries is austerity and new investment in armaments, cutting as it happens in Italy of resources for public school, public university and public research, no salary enhancement for the national contract, rampant precarity in our sectors with only in school 250,000 precarious workers (one in four).

That's the reason why we launched a permanent mobilization in September with a general strike of school, university, research, artistic and music institutions workers the 31st october, demonstrations every week in the last month at Parliament during the discussion of the budget law and the general confederal strike on Friday 29.

We need strong ETUCE because these battles cannot be undertaken alone. I wan to to point three issues for the future:

- the raise of extreme right and fascist movements are endangering democratic institution: we need to work harder on this because it calls into question our role as educators in democratic coexistence. We need an alliance and a common campaign common projects.

I want to tell you in spanish: no pasaran!

- peace and rejection of the 'impoverishment of our sectors in favor of rearmament.

- wages and working conditions starting with the precarization and commodification of schools and universities.

Unions are a bastion of democracy, of social advancement. We cannot stand by, we need strong actions, struggle and joint proposals.

To work and to struggle comrades