European Economic and Social Committee
Workers' Group

Statement

Restoring confidence in the integration project of the European Union

Having regard to the evolution of the crisis and the current situation in some Member States,

the EESC Workers’ Group,

whereas

- the citizens bear no responsibility for the crisis and it is unfair that innocent people have to pay for the excesses of speculators and the irresponsibility of some politicians;
- unscrupulous speculators continue to enrich themselves by attacking States, i.e. peoples;
- the European Union aims, under the terms of the Treaty itself, 'to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples',

- calls on the European institutions and Member States governments to measure the anxiety and the suffering of citizens and to summon up the courage to act in a significant, energetic and unequivocal way against the threat that is currently weighing on Europe;
- firmly condemns all demagogic propaganda designed to exploit the situation in order to turn peoples against each other, to undermine the achievements of the Union or to forget that it exists only for the well-being of its peoples;
- rejects the 'austerity' measures, impoverishing citizens and causing a spiral of recession at the very moment when we must carry out an ambitious policy of investment, growth, employment support and inclusion;
- demands that any measure taken at any level whatsoever
  - tends to ensure a return to inclusive and sustainable growth;
  - respects the European social model, including social dialogue, collective negotiations and collective agreements that derive from it;
  - preserves the support mechanisms for the poor, as in the case of food aid.
- demands effective regulation of financial markets and effective measures to combat speculation, including the establishment of a European fiscal policy and taxation of financial transactions;
- reiterates its confidence in the euro as a political venture that is vital to the future of the European Union and gives its full support to the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism, which must be granted enough resources to guarantee its efficiency as well as solidarity at European level;
- calls for the introduction of Euro-bonds, as an effective instrument to stimulate the real economy in the EU and contribute to solving the problem of sovereign debt in the Member States;
- insists that economic, social and political cohesion be strengthened, as a fundamental pillar of European integration.

The EESC Workers’ Group reaffirms its commitment to a strong, sustainable social Europe, as a source of hope for its citizens. It will continue its fight in this direction, together with the European Trade Union Confederation and the national trade-union confederations.

Brussels, September 22, 2011