



MESSAGE OF GREETINGS

The INTER-REFORMADOS – CGTP-IN Specific Committee of Pensioners and Retired Workers in its member Unions – salutes the struggle that pensioners and retired workers from several European countries will be developing on 19 May, in defence of pensions' public systems and reiterates its solidarity to all representative organisations.

This action will be held by the Pensioners and Retired Workers TUI – the specific organisation of the World Federation of Trade Unions – with the aim of stopping its dismantlement and privatisation, as are doing governments and the European Union. The destruction of the pensions' public systems only serves the interest of big capital, which is looking for easy profits from workers' social security deductions. Therefore, only maintaining their public nature can assure inter-generational solidarity and due compensation to those who contributed to their countries' wealth and development.

The IR/CGTP-IN has been stepping up its efforts of organising and mobilising pensioners and retired workers in each of their respective trade unions. We want to strengthen the struggle in Portugal for their right to a decent living, for which it is essential the existence of a public, universal and solidarity Social Security, with financial sustainability – a Social Security system that includes part of the public pensions' system – as well as quality public services.

With the intense struggle waged over recent years and with the new balance of forces in Parliament, as a result of that struggle, pensioners and retired workers had their pensions updated and recovered and gained rights. These developments, although limited and insufficient, considering this social layer's needs, go in the opposite direction of decades of regression- accelerated during the period of the EU/IMF Pact of Aggression – and have an important social meaning, paving the way for the strengthening of the struggle for new gains.

The IR/ CGTP-IN tries to contribute to the intensification of the struggle for new demands by mobilising pensioners and retired workers for the CGTP-IN actions, with immediate relevance for the national Teachers' Demonstration on 19 May, with the main demand – among other – of improving their retirement rights.

Together with many other struggles that are occurring almost on a daily basis, we are strongly engaged in mobilising for CGTP-IN's National Demonstration, in Lisbon, on 9 June, with the motto "*Struggle for our Rights! Value the workers*".

In the many ongoing struggles, the IR/CGTP-IN stands for:

- A general raise of pensions
- The right to a voluntary early retirement pension, after 40 years of social insurance payments, regardless of age and without penalties
- The reinstatement of 65 years as the legal age for retirement



- The right to comfortable housing, notably with affordable rents
- The right to quality and proximity public health services
- The right to a public network of continued and palliative care in case of dependency
- The right to education and training, culture and leisure.

In a context of serious threats resulting from the growing aggressiveness of imperialism, the IR/CGTP is also engaged in the struggle for peace and against the wars carried out by the USA, NATO and their allies. The IR/CGTP-IN defends the provisions enshrined in the Portuguese Constitution as the ground for international relations: respect for each nation's independence and sovereignty, equality and mutual interest, reciprocity, solidarity, cooperation and social justice. We stand for peace and mankind's progress, fighting for the sovereign right of each country to release itself from NATO and for the dissolution of this political and military block. We fight for the elimination of all nuclear weapons and for multilateral and controlled disarmament.

You can count on the CGTP-IN and on the IR/CGTP-IN for common and convergent actions in the framework of the Pensioners' TUI, to defend the class interests of pensioners and retired workers, for inter-generational solidarity, for equality among men and women, against all types of discrimination, for peace and social justice, for the individual social and national emancipation and development of all peoples.

Our struggle is our solidarity and internationalist contribution to the struggle of all, for a long, happy and decent life for pensioners and retired workers!

Inter – Reformados/ CGTP-IN

Lisbon, 11 May 2018