

Dear General Secretary,
Dear Jan,

The Federation you represent will carry out a mobilization action in the last week of this month in order to claim the right of health and social services workers to have efficient and safe working conditions and an increase in their salaries in a sector that has suffered at great cost from the austerity policies promoted in recent years by Europe and the governments of the various countries.

FERPA, the European Federation of Retired and Elderly People, is in solidarity with the mobilisation of EPSU, which will take place during the current strong recovery of contagion in several European countries. We believe that, in addition to the applause received during the first phase of the pandemic, the workers in health and social services now deserve the right recognition for their important work, which they do every day giving health care to millions of people, especially the elderly, who are the most vulnerable category.

Ther FERPA-EPSU joint signature letters we sent to the European institutions, in which we denounced what was happening in Europe to health care workers and the elderly, particularly those living in nursing homes, because of the pandemic, have had some interesting responses that we will use to support our claims. Efficient public health care, even long-term, residential and home care, with adequate investment and economic resources, is to be considered a universal right, as it is a fundamental sector for health protection. For this reason we express all our solidarity with your claim. We agree with you, in order to face this second wave of pandemic, it is necessary to have motivated health and social workers who can continue to carry out their work in safe conditions and with adequate remuneration, eliminating the gender pay gap in female-dominated sectors, in order to offer all European citizens and especially the elderly quality care and services.

At the ETUC EXCO on 23 September, I too spoke highlighting the initiative of the FERPA/EPSU letters to the European institutions and the replies received and asked the ETUC to pay more attention to this important sector. Following my speech, Secretary General Luca Visentini undertook to involve FERPA and EPSU directly whenever the ETUC addressed these issues. Please extend our solidarity to all the trade union organisations that are members of your Federation.

I hope to see you soon.

Best Regards,

Agostino SICILIANO
General Secretary of FERPA