

## ETF Statement of Support for the Right to Strike

1. The fundamental rights of workers in Europe are under attack. There is an increasing level and increasing frequency of proscriptions and obstructions presented to workers and their trade unions in their right to engage in strike action by national governments, institutions and legal courts. Prominent recent examples of attempts to sanction limitations on workers, have recently happened in Italy, UK, Finland and Belgium while at the same time the right to strike remains limited in many other countries of Europe.
2. The right to strike is fundamental to the right of freedom of association and is essential for workers and their trade unions. The decision to strike is not taken easily by trade unions, but it remains an essential tool to demonstrate worker power when all attempts at dialogue have failed. It is intrinsic to the right to organise and collectively bargain and a fundamental right of workers in order to protect their economic and social interests that are legitimately represented and defended through trade unions. Many democratic, economic, and social rights have been achieved through strike action and strike action has allowed Europe to achieve high levels of social progress. The threats and sanctions imposed by courts, institutions and governments come in addition to employer-led intimidation that undermine human rights, such as the recent case of Tesla in Sweden.
3. **The ETF Executive Committee remind all European governments and institutions that the right to strike is recognised as an essential right by international and European human rights commitments under ILO Convention No. 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, the Council of Europe European Convention on Human Rights, and the European Social Charter.**
4. **The ETF Executive Committee acknowledge that the only answer to threats to the human rights is international unity, solidarity, and action and commits itself to the robust defence of democratic rights and freedoms.**
5. **The ETF Executive Committee commit the ETF to support all affiliated unions in their defence of the rights of their workers when under attack through international solidarity and action.**