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TO: All ETUCE member organisations in Italy

Brussels, 23 May 2019

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Subject: Solidarity with the ETUCE member organisations in Italy

Dear colleagues,

Your nation-wide initiative on 24 May in Palermo is important not only for citizens in Italy but beyond the national borders for the whole of Europe. ETUCE strongly supports your diligent efforts to defend teachers' professional autonomy. Freedom of teaching is a fundamental and indispensable asset in every democratic society. Critical spirit, capacity for analysis and reading world facts are the objectives that students should obtain in their studies to become active citizens who are aware of their rights and obligations and live and use their rights.

Thus, we strongly support your appeals to, among other things:

- guarantee pluralism;
- defend professional prerogatives;
- protect fundamental freedoms;
- establish an independent body with tasks of evaluating the correct exercise of the freedom of teaching and of protecting individual and collective professional autonomy.

Reiterating that the provision of [...] "[autonomy](#) for teachers and other education personnel to manage diversity is essential for a thriving and vibrant society" [...], ETUCE agrees with you that the grave situation occurred around Professoressa Dell'Aria are the symptoms of a dangerous trend of politicians to invade and condition spaces in which didactic actions and autonomy of education institutions are exercised. A trend that can be accentuated in the perspective of the school system governance that is no longer unitary and national but entrusted to the competences of individual regions.

Denouncing the regionalisation and attacks on teachers and on freedom of teaching, ETUCE stands firmly with you shoulder to shoulder in support of this important cause for employees in education and for the citizens in Italy and of Europe.

We wish you the best of success.

In solidarity,

S. Flocken

Susan Flocken
European Director

