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ETUCE

European Trade Union Committee for Education EI European Region

TO: all ETUCE member organisations in France

EUROPEAN REGION- ETUCE

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Brussels, 22 February 2019

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Subject: HERSC stands in solidarity with ETUCE member organisations in France

Dear colleagues,

With this letter, we the members of the ETUCE Standing Committee for Higher Education and Research (HERSC) express our robust and unanimous support with our sister organisations in France.

Representing academics and education personnel working in the post-secondary education and/or research sectors across Europe, we strongly back your demands to withdraw the French Governments' plan to bring in higher tuition fees for students coming from countries outside the European Union to study in France.

We share your concerns and resentment towards the French Prime Minister's announcement of 18 November 2018 on the introduction of considerably increased tuition fees for non-EU students amounting to 2.770 € while repealing the current fees of 170 € for Bachelor degrees and 3.770€ instead of 243 € and 380 € for Master degrees and PhD courses respectively.

Together with you, we strongly believe that quality education is and should remain a fundamental human right and a public good as it is enshrined in European and international laws.

Echoing the key demands of the ETUCE Campaign "[Shape the Future of Europe with Teachers](#)" we emphasise that [...] *"education is fundamental for every citizen. It is a basic human right and a public good, and as such governments in Europe are accountable and responsible for it. ETUCE demands that every child and student have access to free of charge high quality education adapted to his/her needs and regardless of his/her socio-economic background"* [...].

We believe that the foreseen measures of the French Government, indeed jeopardise access to education and pave the way of its further commodification that we strongly denounce.

Expressing our deep concern about the severe implications and consequences these measures risk to cause, the HERSC members support your petition and call on all ETUCE member organisations to sign the [petition](#) "Non à l'augmentation des frais d'inscription pour les étudiant.e.s étranger.e.s !" (No to the increase of tuition fees for foreign students) with a view to defend access to quality public education for all.

In solidarity,

The Members of the Standing Committee for Higher Education and Research of the European Trade Union Committee for Education.



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