



# PANERGATI KI

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**STRIKES FOR WAGES - COLLECTIVE  
AGREEMENTS - INSURANCE STAMPS -  
HEALTH AND SAFETY**

CONSTRUCTION | FOOD AND BEVERAGES  
MANUFACTURING | FOOD SERVICE - TOURISM

**AGAINST SACRIFICES  
FOR THE PROFITS AND  
WARS OF CAPITAL**



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# Editorial

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, strikers in three of the largest sectors of the economy, Construction, Food and Beverages manufacturing, and Food Service - Tourism, united their voices, organizing their strike battles with their unions across the country.

Indeed, after their sectoral rallies in Athens, the strikers marched all together outside the Ministry of Labour, sending a clear and resounding message of struggle against the “costing” of their lives, against sacrifices for the profits and wars of capital.

Yesterday's battle was a milestone in the escalation of the struggle. It showed in the clearest way that this policy, this rotten system of profit and war, has an opponent: organised collective struggle through the unions, in conflict with the efforts of industrialists, the government, the bourgeois parties, and the leadership of the General Confederation of Workers of Greece (GSEE) to impose “heads down”, so that rights and gains are crushed, starvation wages and rubber-band working hours are imposed, and conditions of “danger - death” become part of earning a day's wage.

This is the policy that will dress itself up in September at the Thessaloniki International Fair, through all its representatives, the government and the convenient opposition, old and new “saviours”, who will parade their programmes of support for capital. Facing them will be the great popular river from all over the country on 5 September in Thessaloniki, taking the baton from yesterday's strikes and from the mobilisations being prepared in other sectors, in the private and public sector, even during July.

The slogans on the banners of the three sectors expressed the common ground of their demands: Collective Labour Agreements, wage increases, a reduction in working time, health and safety measures, as well as the specific demands of each sector.



## Food Service - Tourism - Hotels

**Without us, hotels are empty shells, the state and employers must pay now.**



From early in the morning, workers in Tourism and Food Service, together with their sectoral union, were outside Athens hotels, fighting until the last moment for the success of their strike.

Workplace unions were also on alert. Outside the Stanley, the Athens Marriott, the Intercontinental and the Royal Olympic, they unfurled their banners with demands for a Collective Agreement with real wage increases and a 7-hour day, 5-day week, and 35-hour week. A number of workplaces even saw new strikers join in, proudly sending employers the message that “enough is enough” is now taking organised and militant form.

“Their world of profits clashes with our world of needs” was the slogan of yesterday's strike, as expressed at the strike rally outside the offices of the Hoteliers' Association.

The room attendants, dishwashers, buffet workers, valets, and waiters, on whose backs the tourism “miracle” is built, that is, the profits from their brutal exploitation, defied employer intimidation and gave a militant presence at the strike mobilisation.

The Federation of Greek Women (OGE) also expressed its solidarity with the strike rally through its presence.

### **Without you, no cog turns - Worker, you can do without bosses**

Giorgos Stefanakis, president of the Food Service - Tourism Union of Attica and president of the Athens Labour Centre, stressed that hotel workers, refusing to accept working two or three posts and exhausting seven-day schedules, 'raised their heads' and stood outside their workplaces, setting an example of struggle for the entire sector. A characteristic example was the Kallirroi Hotel, where workers resisted blackmail and attempts to stretch working time through amendments to individual contracts.

He underlined that similar mobilisations are developing in large hotel units, while noting that for many young workers, migrants, and contract workers, the decision to clash with the employer remains difficult because anxiety dominates over whether they will have a day's wage the next day.

He added that “everything we have won, from the smallest to the greatest, was won through strikes, participation in the union, and unyielding struggles.” This is how the 8-hour day, Collective



Agreements, reinstatements of dismissed workers, payment of owed wages, wage increases and staff hiring were secured. Finally, he stressed that the union will again submit its draft Collective Agreement, demanding an end to “modern slavery”, and called for strengthening the struggle against the policy of profit and against all those who worship it.

#### “Collective Agreements with wage increases”

Giorgos Chatzoudas, president of the Workers' Union at the Athens Marriott, stressed that throughout this period the union did not leave a single post uninformed about the strike, calling for mass participation. “Rooms cost 2,000 euros, and room attendants have 20 of them every day”, he said, exposing the exploitation. He greeted all strikers, as well as those who did not take the step this time, calling on them to organise the struggle.

Spyros Petrolekas, president of the Royal Olympic Workers' Union, noted that 'the employer is pressuring workers to meet needs through six-day schedules and cancelled days off, but the workers are resisting'. He added that today's message is that at the Kallirroi hotel the employer tried to impose a Collective Agreement with split shifts and overwork, but 'the room attendants answered back and stood tall'.

'Hotels are boiling cauldrons', also pointed out Giorgos Skoufos, president of the Workers' Union at the Stanley, denouncing brutal exploitation. “They tell us not to speak, because if the hoteliers lose, we will lose too”, he said, making clear that the only losers are the workers. He added that anger and indignation are overflowing and called on workers who are still hesitating to take the step and organise.

From the Novotel hotel, a worker who took the floor denounced the employer's attempt to strip workers of heavy and unhealthy work benefits and thanked the sectoral union for its support.

Nikos Takas, secretary of the union at the Parnitha Casino, referred to the battle for the signing of a workplace Collective Agreement in yet another “major investment” that wants workers without rights. “We will not allow it”, he stressed.

Stamos Stamou, member of the Board of the Caravel union, highlighted the role of employer- and government-led trade unionism, stressing that where it dominates, the results are room attendants cleaning 25 rooms and all workers being forced to work two or three posts.

From the Athens Plaza, Fotis Drakos greeted all the strikers who took the step, “a difficult step”, as he described it, because of employer intimidation. “It is one thing to make sacrifices for

the employers' profits and another to make sacrifices for our own needs", he said, showing that struggle is the only way forward.

Diamantis Dimitrakopoulos, president of the union at the Intercontinental, referred to conditions of intense work intensification and to the slave-labour market affecting many workers, who are exploited while the big hoteliers pretend to know nothing.

"Behind the showcase of tourism, it is us, even before we clock in with our digital card at the staff entrance, which is always next to the rubbish bins", stressed Antigoni Mavromati, president of the Workers' Union at the Lycabettus. She described the extreme intensification and staff shortages at that hotel as well, which leave workers going home broken, while their wage runs out halfway through the month. "They are getting rich because there is a room attendant cleaning 20 rooms and a 28-euro salad is being made by an intern", she said characteristically.



See photos and videos at the links below



PHOTOS

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCXr6V>



VIDEO

<https://youtu.be/GRcFDG8Ky38>

## Construction

**The success of the strike shows the strength “to impose what is rightfully ours”**



The image of “dead” tools and “silent” machines on construction sites highlighted the great success of yesterday’s strike by construction workers.

In Athens, participation was universal, giving strength for the continuation and escalation of the struggle. This was also the optimistic message from the strike rally in Kaningos Square, held by the Construction Workers' Union, the Salaried Technicians' Union, the Electricians' Union, unions at the Metro and Elliniko projects, and others. After the speeches, a march followed, with the unions demonstrating for “wage increases, sectoral agreements - compulsory for every employer, insurance stamps, and safety at work for unknown workers - wage and daily wage increases”, and other demands. The march ended at the Ministry of Labour, where they joined the strike rallies of workers in Food and Tourism.

**Giannis Tasioulas, president of the Federation of Construction Workers, commented from the rally platform on the success of the strike, saying that “this is our strength to impose what is rightfully ours.” He analysed the demands, singling out the huge theft of insurance stamps, noting that ‘we are struggling and fighting to complete the required insurance stamps so that we can retire, have a doctor and healthcare, while 50% of the stamps goes into the pockets of big employers’. At the same time, while construction workers have already counted 13 dead since the beginning of the year, “the government tells us to work from morning to night, 13 hours a day, 7 days a week”.**

Referring to the distinct presence of migrant strikers from Egypt, he noted that “part of the huge issue of the theft of insurance stamps is the captivity experienced by a large section of the sector, without papers, hunted from all sides”. They demand “equal rights for Greek and migrant workers, papers, and that they are not pushed into dead ends. We are workers with dignity and we will impose what is rightfully ours through our struggle”.

G. Tasioulas highlighted that the government and the convenient opposition “are of one mind on US-NATO plans and the war economy, and together with big employers they say “heads down”, “do not demand, because there is a war”, which means “workers must pay again for the business and interests of the few”.

Speaking about the employers, he noted that “just as during the crisis, in the execution of major

public works, so now, using the war as a pretext, they claim that their budgets do not work. That is why they demand more funds from the state, while at the same time they describe our demands for higher daily wages and for a 7-hour day, 5-day week, 35-hour week as maximalist, claiming they will bog down their investment goals.”

Pointing to the continuation of the struggle against the major employers in the sector, he warned: "We are ready to meet the increased demands of the struggle and the clash with the interests of the big construction groups. We will escalate the struggle in every form”.

Informing workers that the current Collective Agreement expires in February 2027, the Federation president noted that a major cycle of intervention, information, and action within the sector begins now. He singled out the interventions being prepared in major workplaces, especially on heatwave issues, the signing of workplace agreements with increases, and more.

Calling for escalation through the major nationwide rally at the Thessaloniki International Fair, he noted that “a list is opening for mass participation by construction workers”.

“Against the government, the cost-benefit policy, profits for the few and problems and dead ends for the many; against old and new, previous and current figures who are now parading on TV channels with their eyes on elections”, he noted, “we do not forget that they have voted for all the anti-worker laws and now pretend not to know”. He made clear that “none of them questions the anti-worker arsenal that supports big employers against our lives”.

“Against all of them we show the red card and trust the strength of our struggle. Everyone into the struggle so that workers' rights become reality”, he concluded.

Christos Tsiakilos, president of the Attica Electricians' Union, highlighted that the workers of the sector are being driven into the streets by their acute problems: work from dawn to dusk, exhausting schedules and intensification, which “while employers translate them into profits, we receive as deaths and maimed bodies”.

Answering employers' claims that there are no workers and that young people do not enter the sector, he said: “If they want workers, they must pay them and ensure that our working conditions are humane. Workers are not machines”.

He denounced the majority of the Electricians' Federation, which sabotages struggles and cooperates with the leadership of GSEE, employers and the government, preparing yet another agreement away from workers and their needs. He demanded general assemblies and militant initiatives.

Ilias Tsimpoukakis, president of the Salaried Technicians' Union, pointed out that employer bodies, using the support provided by governments, refuse to sign a Collective Agreement that would cover the overwhelming majority of salaried workers employed through service invoices. In fact, they seek to turn everyone into invoice-paid salaried workers, because this means a worker with a “closed” wage, no limit on working time, and the cheapest hourly labour cost compared with all other specialisations on worksites.

At the same time, in 2025 the profits of just four major groups - TERNA, AKTOR, AVAX and METKA - hit a record, exceeding 1 billion euros, while the works they are set to carry out remain stable at 17 billion euros.

He underlined that through mass strike struggle, workers can once again break employer intransigence as they move towards the Thessaloniki International Fair in September, and called for rallying around the unions, “decisively marching on the path of the overall overturning of this policy.”



See photos and videos at the links below



PHOTOS

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCXzqn>

## Food and Beverages

### Food and Beverage workers demanded an industry-wide Collective Agreement for all



With the central demand being the signing of an industry-wide Collective Agreement that will not exclude workers as “unskilled”, the strike rally of the Federation and the Attica Milk - Food - Beverage Union took place outside the offices of SEV, where workplace unions from NIKAS, EMFI, TASTY and DELTA participated with their own banners, along with student associations connected to the sector, for example, from the Agricultural University.

With slogans such as “They want us unskilled in industry - no sacrifice for the employers' and 'Without us there is no production - we will win a complete agreement”, the strikers marched to the Ministry of Labour, where they joined the other striking sectors.

“Our strike mobilisation sends a powerful message. Production in large factories and major workplaces of the sector stopped!”, stressed, among other things, Federation president Vasilis Stamoulis in his speech.

He underlined that workers and their unions will not back down if the employers do not sign an industry-wide Collective Agreement, adding: “Whom do they consider unskilled? Us, who carry out production, who work shifts, who come into contact with chemicals, who are maimed by their unmaintained machines? They will not get away with it. We will be skilled in fighting for our demands, in organising more workers in unions, in creating new unions in workplaces, as recently at NIKAS, where the employer Yfantis has gone berserk, dismissing a pioneering worker because he spoke about the ammonia leak at the factory, in order to prevent the danger of another Violanta”.

He also stressed that while workers cannot “even buy the products they produce”, the industrialists are stuffed with profits and the state feeds them with new subsidies, yet they refuse to sign even for basic matters such as the marriage allowance and the unfreezing of three-year seniority increments.

He added: "Today we are proud that young workers entered the battle. Workers from the Arivia factory, hundreds of workers, are on strike. Workers in the Patras Industrial Zone, from NOUNOU and Athenian Brewery where nothing operated, and workers from major workplaces in Athens are here with their banners".

He also referred to the designation of the sector as a "national security sector" so that it can be integrated into the war economy and war preparation. "For us, "war preparation" means a new blow to our rights. It means 13-hour days and intensification, attacks on Collective Agreements. Attacks on trade union action. We say: "no more sacrifices for their profits. We will make sacrifices for ourselves. For our class. And we will succeed!".

Savvas Lazos, president of the DELTA Athens Workplace Union, addressed a greeting, stressing that 'we are striking and demanding health and safety measures, so that we do not experience more employer crimes, no more "Violentas"'. He added that the union at DELTA has declared a new 24-hour strike for tomorrow, Friday, against the employer's intransigence in refusing to implement consecutive days off and instead maintaining 'split' days off for workers, fragmenting rest time and increasing the risk of new workplace "accidents".

The floor was also taken by Thanasis Metzios, member of the administration of the Attica Milk - Food - Beverage Union and dismissed trade unionist from the NIKAS factory, who described the dangerous working conditions at the factory, which, apart from "accidents" and injuries, include continuous and often extensive ammonia leaks due to the age of the pipes.

At the same time, the new management is cultivating a climate of intimidation, having announced dismissals for September and proceeding with the dismissal of Th. Metzios despite having been informed of his trade union status and his participation in the provisional administration of the workplace union.

"They are trying in every way to fight and smear the union, threatening that anyone who joins and participates will be dismissed", he noted, stressing that, on the contrary, workers 'draw conclusions from the fury of the employer; they will not get away with it. We are strengthening, working and fighting to establish and grow our union!'

"We are sending a resounding message to SEV and the industrialists that we will not take a step back. The employers' intransigence will be broken", Panagiotis Chainas, president of the Menne workplace union (formerly EVGA).

Nikos Papacharalambous, vice-president of the Tasty Foods workplace union, also addressed a greeting, noting that workers, through assemblies, work stoppages and strikes, such as today's strike, Thursday, at the Pepsico factory in Agios Stefanos, are continuing their struggle. "We will not do them the favour; we continue dynamically, we are here strong and organised", he stressed.



See photos and videos at the links below



PHOTOS

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCXqPW>



## Retail workers and workers in Telecommunications - IT also took to the streets



**“Collective Agreements, wage increases - not for wars and armaments” and “7-hour day, 5-day week, stable work - this is what we demand in retail” were the slogans that dominated yesterday’s protest by retail workers outside the offices of ESEE, in the framework of the militant call by the Federation of Private Employees of Greece (OIYE) and the four-hour work stoppage declared by the Athens Retail Workers’ Association.**

Although the Federation submitted a specific draft sectoral Collective Agreement to the employer bodies six months ago, negotiations are not progressing, with employers invoking various pretexts.

During the mobilisation, a meeting was held with the legal adviser and the general secretary of ESEE, D. Kapralos. Immediately afterwards, the Federation president, Dina Gkogkaki, called on retail workers to participate en masse in the strike declared by the Federation for Sunday 19 July, with the key demand being the signing of a Collective Agreement and wage increases.

In the meeting, as Dina Gkogkaki reported, the representatives of ESEE cited as an example the agreement signed in Rhodes, and “as they told us, our colleagues want to work on Sundays.” Exactly what employer-led trade unionism says. We know who we have against us. We have the EU and the governments that implement every anti-worker direction’. ‘Before elections they will promise us the moon’, she commented, recalling what was said about Sunday rest in 2013, while under the governments that followed (ND - PASOK - DIMAR, SYRIZA, ND), ‘the discussion is now about shops open 52 Sundays, something that was also confirmed in the meeting with ESEE’.

Regarding the Collective Agreement, she noted that ESEE talks about negotiation, but “all employers in retail (GSEVEE, GSEE, etc.) must find common ground and agree on a specific framework”. In other words, crumb wages, three seniority increments, and maybe one allowance’.

“If we want a Collective Agreement to be signed in retail that secures wages, allowances, seniority increments, specialisations and working hours, our struggle must strengthen in every workplace, business and warehouse. We will not melt away for their profits; we will not give

them anything for free', stressed D. Gkogkaki. After the protest at ESEE, the gathered workers marched, while informing people about the strike declared for 19 July, towards Notos, in solidarity with the struggle of the hundreds of department-store workers who "at the end of August will have no day's wage coming home". There, representatives of the Praktiker and Ikea workplace unions took the floor, sharing valuable experience from battles already fought, while the president of the Piraeus Retail Workers' Association conveyed the boiling mood at the Notos branch there, as despite assurances that they are "not at risk", they remain in militant readiness.



#### In Telecommunications - IT

Workers in Telecommunications and IT are also joining the cycle of mobilisations, with SETIP holding a protest yesterday at SEV, while from today the baton passes to workplace unions.

The demand proclaimed yesterday to the industrialists was for the signing of a sectoral Collective Agreement with increases, a 7-hour day, 5-day week, 35-hour week, and full and stable work.

"We will not pay for the turn to the war economy and involvement" was one of the main slogans, demanding "Sectoral agreements, wage increases - this is the demand of the workers".

The detailed draft sectoral Collective Agreement of SETIP was posted at the main entrance of SEV (Association of Greek Industries), with the union president, Giannis Andreou, stressing that "workers will not back down from the demand for an agreement based on their contemporary needs, against the employers' pursuit of 48 and more hours of work per week".

He referred to mobilisations developing in workplaces of the sector, such as Nokia and Vodafone, while denouncing that the turn of businesses towards the war economy brings greater intensification and seeks to turn workers into parts of the war machine.

Alekos Perrakis, member of the Executive Committee of OME-OTE and organisational secretary of the Athens Labour Centre, described the mobilisation as the culmination of strike initiatives developed in other sectors, such as Construction, Tourism and Food and Beverages, and at the same time as a link in the escalation of the fight for Collective Labour Agreements. Representatives of the Vodafone - 360 Connect, Teleperformance and Intracom Telecom unions also intervened, sharing experience from struggles in the workplaces.

Taking up the baton, today, Thursday, a strike is being organised at OpenBet by the workplace

union against the dismissals brought by the employer. A strike rally will be held at 10 a.m. at the entrance to the company in Marousi.

The workers of Nokia are responding to dismissals with a strike on 30 June, by decision of their union and with the slogan "We will not pay for their business plans, their risks and their wars". It should be recalled that since 2023 the multinational business giant has been unfolding a plan for 15,000 dismissals worldwide, because that is what its 'business plans' dictate. In Greece, another 24 dismissals have been announced for the coming period, while workers are experiencing intensified exploitation because of 'flexible' forms of work ('standby status', etc.).

The workplace union has been in a state of mobilisation throughout this period, while yesterday it held a protest at the company's management and last week held a work stoppage and a General Assembly, deciding on the strike.

## Highlights from the strike demonstrations



VIDEO

<https://youtu.be/OcpN0VFO8O8>



## Thessaloniki

### Call for escalation from the unions ahead of the Thessaloniki International Fair



The three sectoral strike rallies in Thessaloniki concluded with a march to the Ministry of Macedonia - Thrace. The strikers, holding the banners of their unions and shouting strong slogans that echoed through the city centre, met at the ministry with striking workers from the Region of Central Macedonia.

A union delegation then delivered a resolution with the strike demands, while from the rally platform the need for readiness and intervention in every workplace was highlighted, especially ahead of the new heatwave expected in the coming period.

The mobilisation ended with a call to continue and escalate the struggle, with the unions already setting a militant appointment for the major nationwide rally of 5 September at the YMCA park in Thessaloniki.

Earlier, workers in Food Service - Tourism gathered outside the Electra Palace Hotel, where the employer had recently carried out a vindictive dismissal of a cook for his trade union activity. From there, they sent a message condemning employer intimidation and defending trade union action.

In his speech, Asteris Panagiotou, president of SETEPE, focused on the conditions experienced daily by workers in the sector, noting that “in hotels, kitchens, warehouses, delivery and catering workplaces, workers often work without adequate protection measures, without meaningful inspections, without occupational doctors and safety technicians”. As he stressed, every season is accompanied by exhaustion, fainting, and workplace “accidents”, because employers treat health and safety as a cost that reduces their profits.

“We are striking because we have sacrificed enough until now, so that our own needs and our lives come to the foreground against their profits”, he said characteristically, underlining that organisation in unions is the only answer for those who sacrifice workers' health and safety on the altar of profit.

At the same time, construction workers gathered outside the Social Security Authority building in Aristotelous Square. Earlier, from dawn, a delegation from the Construction Workers' Union

had been at the Fly Over, Filyro and major city-centre worksites, guarding the strike. The image of closed construction sites and 'dead' works confirmed the high rates of participation in the sector's nationwide strike.

Angelos Gerakis, president of the Construction Workers' Union, greeted the rally and stressed that "from one end of the country to the other, major construction sites are closed, with universal participation. This is our strength to impose what is rightfully ours, to demand solutions and results for the acute problems of the sector, which are the outcome of anti-worker policy, anti-worker measures, and the intensified exploitation of our sweat by big employers".

"For them, what is normal is that we boil in our own juice, that they count profits and we count losses", he added, making clear that construction workers are determined to escalate their struggle by beginning a major cycle of intervention, information and action within the sector.

Similarly, workers in Food and Beverages gathered in Ladadika. Kostas Gkountelias, president of the Central Macedonia Milk - Food - Beverage Union, referred to the struggle for the signing of an industry-wide Agreement for all, without exceptions, pointing out that the sector has remained for more than 15 years without industry-wide protection of workers' rights.



## Patras

### Universal strike participation in major workplaces in the Industrial Zone



With universal participation in the strike by major workplaces, sending a militant and optimistic message for the continuation of the struggle, the strike declared for the Patras Industrial Zone by the Labour Centre, sectoral and workplace unions took place.

Workplaces operating around the clock, such as NOUNOU, Avramar, El Pack, Athenian Brewery, Coffee Island, OKTO, Spiliopoulos and Liaromatis, did not operate, while a message of escalation was also sent through the popular rally at the Thessaloniki International Fair on 5 September.

Through their determined stance, workers together with their unions, and through their participation from the first moment in the strike, the pickets and the militant rally in front of NOUNOU, made clear that they are not backing down from demanding satisfaction of their just demands for measures to protect their health and lives in workplaces across the region. Workplace 'accidents' are following one after another, with the most recent, the day before yesterday at Athenian Brewery (the second at the same company and the third overall in the Industrial Zone in almost 10 days). They also denounced that, after last year's fire, which passed through the Industrial Zone, no substantial measures have been taken to protect the thousands of workers!

The Avramar, El Pack and Athenian Brewery workplace unions also gave their presence at the strike rally. A delegation from the Patras municipal authority stood alongside the strikers.

The rally also began amid slogans such as 'Sectoral agreements, wage increases - this is the demand of the workers', "Without you, no cog turns, worker, you can do without bosses", and "Give money for Health and Education, not for the slaughterhouses of war".

Workers' participation in the strike was greeted by the president of the Labour Centre, Dimitris Marmoutas, who sharply criticised the lack of protection measures in the Industrial Zone, the danger from blocked escape routes, and the wretched road network with the 'one-way', dangerous Peiros- Parapeiros bridge, where workers gamble with their lives every day.

He highlighted that, while business groups present their "good deeds" for environmental protection - such as Athenian Brewery's 60-million-euro investments for its 'green transition' or 'fire protection' programmes against forest fires, implemented together with the Region of Western

Greece, the municipality of Western Achaia and the Fire Service - work intensification is “bone-breaking” (resulting in frequent workplace “accidents”), as is the division the company attempts among its workers, with so-called 'contractor' workers, so that labour rights are not secured.

He called for intensifying collective demand-making and struggle, strengthening unions in every workplace and sector, against the employers, against the anti-worker policies of the current and previous governments, and against all those who present themselves as saviours of workers while supporting business profitability.

Giorgos Stathopoulos, president of the Achaia Food - Beverage sectoral union, greeted the sector's large participation in the strike and underlined that the “sustainable development” invoked by companies in the Industrial Zone, such as Athenian Brewery, and their supposedly positive “footprint” are based on the brutal exploitation of workers, which is also reflected in the industrialists' refusal to sign a Collective Labour Agreement with rights. “Our demands were discussed in the workplaces with the workers, and our decisions were common. The government, the Region of Western Greece, and the industrialists, who do not take measures, are responsible for all the problems in the Industrial Zone. We continue; we will not work for their wars and armaments; all together we march also to the Thessaloniki International Fair on 5 September”, he noted.

Anestis Triantis, president of the Metal sectoral union, referred to the problems in the sector's workplaces and called for a struggle for a Collective Agreement and for a 7-hour day, 5-day week, 35-hour week.

### **The major works 'fell silent'**

Construction workers also gave their own strike answer, participating massively in the strike and bringing the major works in Patras and the Industrial Zone, as well as worksites in the wider city area, to a halt. The union's rally was held at the Labour Centre, where its president, Stefanos Lavranos, spoke. He noted that everything construction workers have achieved to date is the result of their continuous struggle, not of any government or employer willingness, stressing that the struggle must continue in this way, against the overall anti-worker arsenal shaped by all governments and against the logic of strengthening business profits promoted by old and new 'saviours' of the people.

He focused on repeated employer crimes in the sector, such as the recent injuries of two workers on construction sites and in workplaces in the Industrial Zone and in Patras, while he also denounced the attempt by the employer of Air Otel, at a large hotel in the city under reconstruction, to break the strike - something that was stopped after the union intervened.

An intervention at the Labour Inspectorate followed, demanding that safety measures for workers in workplaces be observed, that inspections for this purpose be intensified, and that tripartite Mixed Committees be established. The union secured a commitment that the mixed inspection teams will be formed within the week, with the participation of the Technical Chamber of Western Greece, which until now had not appointed representatives.

## Ioannina

### A dynamic strike presence



Workers from the striking sectors also gave a dynamic presence at yesterday's rally in Ioannina, with the unions culminating in a major effort through tours and outreach at worksites, food industries, and hotels in the region, sounding the call for Collective Agreements with increases, health and safety measures, and more.

As Thanasis Nakos, president of the Ioannina Construction Workers' Union, underlined in his speech, participation in the strike was even greater than in the previous one on 19 May, which had been organised after the death of a construction worker while at work. The worksites of AVAX, Enter natural gas, optical fibre installation, as well as ordinary construction sites, remained closed, showing the strength workers have to impose what is rightfully theirs. As he stressed, despite the increases achieved, the daily wage is not enough because of high prices in food, fuel, and energy, and because of tax plunder.

Special reference was made to the worker who was killed a month ago at a construction site in Vounoplagia. As he said, giving just one example of the courageous stance of the fallen worker's family, when the employer tried to deter his relatives from demanding justice, they answered that they trust only the union. He also denounced the government's stance, which refused to admit the dead construction worker's daughter to university without the national entrance-examination procedure.

A greeting to the strike rally was addressed by Anthi Lygda, president of the Food Service - Tourism Union of Ioannina, who noted that the strike battle is being fought with the momentum given by the results of the recent union elections, where the ballot of the trade unionists rallied with PAME won an absolute majority. She highlighted the reality behind the impressive records of Greek tourism, the "daily Tempi" in workplaces, with the most recent example being the serious injury of a 19-year-old delivery worker, the result of extreme intensification. She demanded immediate hiring of staff, clear definition of duties by specialisation and a ceiling on rooms for room attendants, so that work is done under humane terms and not with workers "working like wound-up machines when there are tourists and being thrown on leave in haste when traffic falls".

The president of the Milk - Food - Beverage Workers' Union, Dimitris Kalyvas, highlighted the "two homelands" in conflict: on one side, that of the workers groaning under high prices and the consequences of imperialist wars, and on the other, that of capital, industrialists and shipowners who are growing rich.

He referred to the acquisition of large industries in the sector in the region, with many millions

in turnover, which - as was underlined - come directly from the brutal exploitation of labour power, with workers paid crumbs. "We are the ones who produce the wealth. Today there is the possibility to plan production based on our needs. Wages can be increased, leave can be secured, we can work under humane conditions", he continued, calling on workers to come forward in every workplace to demand an industry-wide Collective Labour Agreement (CLA) that meets the contemporary needs of the era.

Workers from the Zagori bottling industry also gave their presence at the strike rally, with their union banner.

The rally ended with a march through the city centre, ending at the offices of the Epirus branch of the Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE), where a delegation of the Construction Workers' Union met with the president and conveyed the sector's demands.



## Employer- and Government-led Trade Unionism

### Discredited by the workers, 'faithful' to anti-worker laws



#### The banner of POEET at the Ministry of Labour, without a trace of workers behind it

A tiny delegation was ultimately the 'rally' of the Federation of Food Service - Tourism (POEET), confirming the deep discrediting of this trade-union leadership (PASOK) among the workers of the sector.

After all, these forces enjoy the recognition of the government and the employers, with the government taking every opportunity to salute the outrages they sign for 12-hour and even 16-hour days, for work on days off, and everything that shields the profits of capital. This leadership was in fact among the first to rush to implement the disgraceful 'Social Agreement' of Kerameos and millionaire Panagopoulos for keeping wages at the lowest levels.

And while workers were not found to demonstrate with the above figures, at a time when hundreds were demonstrating with the Attica sectoral union, central cadres of PASOK and SYRIZA were found there to convey their faith in the anti-worker laws, even calling on the government to implement them 'without deviation'.

In other words, while thousands of workers from all sectors were demanding yesterday as well the dismantling of the anti-worker legal arsenal that bleeds them dry, the above people demanded that 'labour legislation be implemented'. And why would they not ask for this, since PASOK, SYRIZA and Tsipras have voted for these laws not only as governments but also as opposition, fully aligned with the strategy of the EU and the business groups...

# Major nationwide popular rally in Thessaloniki

**Saturday 5 September, 17:30, at YMCA Square**

**Give money for wages, Health and Education**

**No sacrifice for war and their profits!**

We call on every worker, men and women, the unemployed, pensioners, the youth, the self-employed, poor farmers, the entire people, to give a mass, militant, and decisive presence at the major popular rally on Saturday 5 September, at the Thessaloniki International Fair.

We have nothing to expect from government promises, from passes, “baskets” and mockery announcements that have already evaporated because of taxes and high prices in food and energy before they even reach our pockets. Every year they promise “breathing space” and “support measures”, and every year the bill for the people becomes heavier. Because whatever crumbs they give with one hand, they take back many times over with the other, through price hikes, tax plunder, indirect taxes, electricity, rent, and the supermarket.

While the people's income is being crushed, while exploitation and insecurity deepen, the ND government will attempt once again to present black as white. It will speak of “growth for all” and “stability”, while the people live with the instability of high prices, commercialised Health and Education, rents and housing that are on fire, and the jungle of labour relations. It will speak of “national goals”, which mean deeper involvement in the imperialist plans of the USA, NATO and the EU, making our people a target of reprisals and dragging them into the abyss of war for the profits of business groups.

**Their war brings only poverty and misery for the people**

From Ukraine to the Middle East, from the genocide of the Palestinian people by the murderer-state of Israel to the war in Iran and the threats against Cuba, the peoples pay with blood, poverty, and uprooting for the profits of monopolies and for the imperialist rivalries of the USA, NATO and the EU with China and Russia over routes for the transport of goods and energy, markets, and spheres of influence.

The government and the parties that worship the EU, NATO and the 'geostrategic upgrading' of capital bear enormous responsibilities. They supported and continue to support the country's involvement in imperialist wars. The people pay the bill, with more than 30 billion euros for the needs of the war economy and with a bloody primary surplus of 5.185 billion euros in just four months, increased by 3 billion euros compared with projections. This increase comes mainly from indirect taxes due to soaring prices in food, fuel and basic necessities, also as a result of war involvement.

The war economy is not only cannons, frigates, aircraft, and NATO business. It is also the daily attack on the lives of the working class. It is the demand that we work more and for less. It is 13-hour days, the arrangement of working time, unpaid overtime, attacks on Collective Agreements, and starvation wages, repression, and restrictions on trade union action. It is the government's refrain that while claiming 'there is no money' for wages, Health, and Education, it generously gives 5% of the state budget for NATO needs and receives praise from Trump for doing so.

It is the undeclared war against the working class unfolding inside the workplaces. Deaths and injuries of workers, such as the crime at VIOLANTA, have now become a daily phenomenon. These are murders, employer crimes backed by the state, born of intensification, the absence of Collective Agreements and health and safety measures, the absence of state inspections, staff shortages, exhausting schedules, and the pressure to get the job done faster and cheaper. It is the same policy of profit that treats workers' lives and safety as a 'cost', so that the competitiveness

and profits of the groups are not touched.

From the theft of our labour power, from the pieces of ourselves that we leave in the workplaces, come the new profit records! 2025 was a milestone year for listed groups on the stock exchange, with net profits exceeding 12 billion euros, while workers have a real average wage 18% lower than in the period before the capitalist crisis.

**No illusions, no waiting!**

**There can be no fair management of injustice.**

**This state cannot 'fit' both the profits of the exploiters and the people's rights.**

The 'Greece for all' promoted by PASOK, the 'progressive Greece' preached by SYRIZA, and the 'new patriotism' proclaimed by Tsipras's party are variations of the same anti-people policy of profits and war that is consistently implemented by the ND government.

There is no shortage of fairy tales about the famous 'European acquis' that will supposedly save us. It is nothing but the condensation of EU directives that shield exploitation and the profits of capital, that murder in workplaces, that steal farmers' income and land through the CAP, and that commercialise infrastructure, leading to crimes such as the one at Tempe. It is nothing but the breeding ground for the rot and stench of the wiretapping and OPEKEPE scandals.

Old and new saviours whitewash the rotten system of exploitation, the state hostile to the people, and the EU, in order to settle comfortably into ministerial chairs. They seek to receive the blessing of governmental power from capital so they can continue the unhindered implementation of the same anti-people policy amid the sharpening of imperialist rivalries and the looming new capitalist crisis. That is why they do not dare say half a word about the real culprits behind the people's suffering, who are none other than the EU, NATO, and the big business groups.

**For the people to breathe, capital must lose**

**Conflict everywhere to overturn the policy of profit**

For workers to win, capital must lose. There is no middle way; there are no saviours and 'progressive' governments that can secure both. Because the enormous development of technology and Artificial Intelligence, the progress of science, will either be turned into means for the greater draining of workers for the profitability of the groups, or they will be used to reduce working time, eliminate heavy labour, and protect our health and safety.

Only the organised people, a mass and militant workers' and people's movement, can demand substantial relief measures and open the road to overturning the barbarity of war and exploitation.

Now the struggle of workers for collective agreements and wage increases must strengthen against the shameful 'Social Agreement' signed by the new anti-people troika of Employers - Government - GSEE labour bureaucrats, and supported by the parties of the convenient opposition, PASOK and SYRIZA, and by trade unionists who today follow Tsipras's party.

**We demand:**

- No overturning of our labour and trade union rights connected with the adaptation of entire sectors and enterprises to the demands of the war economy.
- Stable and continuous daily working time: a 7-hour day, 5-day week and 35-hour week, secured through Collective Labour Agreements, so that the free time we need is also secured.
- Increases in wages, pensions, and social benefits. Restoration of the 13th and 14th salary

for public-sector employees, and of the 13th and 14th pension.

- Restoration of gains such as three-year seniority increments, including the 2012-2023 period, the principle of the most favourable agreement, the continued validity of agreements after expiry, Sunday rest, and overtime pay.
- Health and safety measures in workplaces, because our lives are not a cost, so that we do not count new victims of employer crimes.

The moments when the government was put in difficulty, when it was squeezed, were those when it faced an organised people. When fear became determination in the workplaces and unions were built, struggles were fought and victories won for workers. When anger was transformed into massive rallies and strikes over the Tempe crime.

When, instead of “social automation”, the power of solidarity and the moving farmers’ roadblocks prevailed. When every day workers, farmers, self-employed people, and youth do not become trapped in fatalism and defeatism, and do not place the solution outside their own participation in the struggle, they do not leave their lives in “foreign hands”, in the hands of would-be saviours. This is the only opponent the government takes into account, the only one it has found hard to deal with. This is the only road for this anti-people policy as a whole to be driven out.

Now the organised current of a great popular questioning and confrontation must grow into a giant force that will not submit to the strategy of bourgeois governments, the EU and NATO; to the goals of the big bosses, which they baptise ‘national goals’ so they can become richer through the exploitation and blood of workers. A movement free from the compromising view of governmental alternation and the search for ‘saviours’ who will continue the same plundering policy of capital, cultivating demobilisation and defeatism.

The perspective lies in the common struggle of workers, poor farmers and the self-employed, forming a great social alliance against the common enemy: the policy that ruins the lives of the many for the profits of the few.

On 5 September, let it be heard loudly from Thessaloniki: we choose our lives, not war and their profits. Let the rally become a major milestone of militant escalation, an answer to the government, the employers, the EU, NATO, and the parties that serve the same anti-people policy.

### **Give money for wages, Health and Education**

#### **No sacrifice for war and their profits!**

- We demand money for health and education, not for the slaughterhouses of war. Health, welfare, education, mass transport, water and energy must not be commodities but exclusively public social goods. No to the revision of Article 16 of the Constitution.
- Measures against high prices and for the protection of workers’ and people’s income. A tax-free threshold of 12,000 euros for every worker and 3,000 euros for every child.
- Abolition of presumed taxation for the self-employed. Their reinclusion in the tax-free threshold.
- A generous reduction and cap on wholesale and retail prices for energy and fuel, including the abolition of all indirect taxes and VAT. Abolition of the energy exchange and the emissions-trading system. Utilisation and upgrading of hydroelectric and lignite power plants.
- A generous reduction and cap on wholesale and retail prices, including the abolition of VAT on widely consumed basic goods such as bread, food, milk, baby products, personal hygiene items, etc.

- Abolition of every kind of fee in hospitals, for diagnostic tests, in banks and in the public sector.
- Reduction in medicine prices and abolition of patient contributions for working-class and popular families.
- Tax-free diesel at the pump for farmers, as well as a generous reduction and cap on the prices of fertilisers and agricultural supplies. Guaranteed prices for agricultural products.
- Immediate payment of all amounts owed to farmers. Withdrawal by law of all prosecutions against farmers who struggled.
- Reconstitution of the Workers' Housing Organisation (OEK) for modern and affordable housing. We strengthen action against auctions and seizures.
- Protection of trade union freedoms and rights. Disobedience to the laws of employer and government repression.
- Greece out of the war! No participation in Euro-Atlantic imperialist plans. Close all bases in our country. Recall the Greek Patriot missile battery from Saudi Arabia and bring back all navy frigates and F-16s. No Greek occupation troops to be sent to Palestine.
- We stand with the people of Palestine. We demand that the government now recognize the Palestinian state on the borders before June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.
- Solidarity with Cuba. Stop the murderous blockade by the USA now.