

**Domenico Pesenti's intervention at the 12th ETUC Congress – Athens, 16-19 May, 2011.**

*Dear sisters, dear brothers, dear colleagues and friends  
the economic crisis we are experiencing has enabled us to understand the need of international political bodies for regulating the market and globalization.*

*For our part, we need to build a stronger Europe, with greater ability of political leadership*

*EU was born from the dream of great political leaders in order to avoid other wars for European peoples, it's an idea of peace and coexistence which has guaranteed democracy and freedom: on these basis our economic development was also built.*

*EU is nowadays the area of greater rights and protections for workers, of democratic freedoms for citizens.*

*EU must be the platform to globalize workers' protections and rights and the democratic freedoms.*

*Europe must have a strong political ability because it can't fail, for lack of vision of common interests; in its action of solidarity: both in finance and in economic, in welcoming migrants and is support of refugees.*

*The solidarity support to the desire of democracy of peoples in Arab countries also strengthens us and makes us more free*

*In order to improve the European social policy and to avoid that each Member State and its people shut themselves in their own selfishness, we must be able to build a stronger trade union, independent from politics. It's needed that ETUC and the European Trade Union Federations have to strengthen the synergies of their actions.*

*We need a trade union that is able to make agreements with the counterparts and also with Institutions and the ability to lobby and social dialogue.*

*A trade union that is leading in the European decisions through concertation and negotiations with institutional and entrepreneurial parts and to create the framework for contracts coordinated at European level, fostering the increasing of EWCs, for Group negotiations.,*

*Through the bargaining we can and we must affirm the leading role of workers in the workplace, in society, in democracy.*

*Fighting against illegality, mafia, social dumping must be included in our policies such a to guarantee the free movement of people in a regulated market and the EU continuous enlargement to new countries in order to reach the dream of a global citizenship of people.*

*It's our task to keep EU social soul alive and strong, not with a defensive action but building, through a daily action, the globalisation of rights and protections of workers and of democracies for everybody.*