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TO: GEW, ETUCE member organisation in Germany

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Subject: Solidarity during GEW week of action

Dear colleagues,

ETUCE addresses to you and your members during the week of action called "Traumjob Wissenschaft" ("Dream Job in Academia"). We would like to use the time of this important campaign to express solidarity with all of you for even more endurance and your great enthusiasm which you have so clearly demonstrated during the last years.

This special week shows again the clear success of your work concepts and your continued efforts to raise public awareness of the dramatic situation in Higher Education and Research. With many earlier impressive actions you have strongly supported the thousands of colleagues in academia who have kept working on temporary contracts and often with a term of less than a year. Years of battle for better employment conditions might hopefully lead successfully to a reform of the Academic Temporary Contract Law which has so far made it legally possible to keep academic staff exploited under temporary fixed-term contracts. If the German federal government wants to amend the law so that it would sustainably improve the academic's employment conditions it would be well advised to look carefully into its Ministry of Education and Research's studies and also to draw the critical points that you have continuously been raising. As your newly produced video clip explicitly refers to the improvement of the academic staff's employment conditions is closely related to full provision of high quality education.

We use this opportunity also to express our appreciation for your commitment to the needs of academic staff at European level. For years, you have been actively engaged in the European social dialogue working group on Higher Education and contributed strongly towards a substantial outcome of the project in support to the early stage researchers in Higher Education in Europe. At the same time you play an important part in the regular meetings of the Higher Education and Research Standing Committee (HERSC) to discuss about recent policy developments in the European Union, the Bologna Process, the Council of Europe, and of partner organisations which can touch upon the teachers' work.

We wish you a successful week of actions and believe that you will gain even more strength for your future commitment to your members in Higher Education and Research who count on you. Please, feel free to use this message for your work with the public.

With warmest regards and in solidarity,

Martin R3mer
European Director