Brussels, 11 January 2021

TO:

ETUCE member organisations in France

Solidarity with ETUCE member organisations in France

Dear colleagues,

On 13 January 2022, we will be standing with all the protesting teachers and other education personnel in France. Together with you, education trade unions across Europe urge the government of France to, once and for all, listen to the demands that have been repeatedly expressed by all the professionals working in schools and other education institutions.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and despite an unprecedented amplification of the pandemic, teachers’ appeals for the protection of health and safety in schools have been ignored in France. Enough is enough! The government of France must recognise the tremendous efforts that teachers, academics and other education personnel have been continuously making to uphold quality education while exposing themselves to serious risks.

Yet, schools in France do not benefit from the necessary protection measures that would ensure the health and safety of students, teachers, academics, and other education personnel, as well as their families.

We ask the authorities of France to fully acknowledge that shortages of staff replacements, management of tests and student absences increasingly deteriorating working conditions of teachers and their work-life balance on the one hand while, on the other hand, slow return of students requires educational adjustments making the learning conditions difficult.

Wishing our member organisations, SNES FSU, UNSA Education, FERC-CGT, Sgen-CFDT, FEP-CFDT, FNESC.FR-FO, SNESUP-FSU, SNETAA-FO, SNCS-FSU, SNUipp-FSU the best of success in the upcoming protest action, we call on the government of France to respond to the repeated demands of teachers, academics and other education personnel.

Together with you, we ask the French authorities to ensure the elaboration of a viable protocol that does not put teachers and other education personnel in
complex situations in managing incidents of positively tested students/staff, contact cases and preventive testing campaigns, by equipping staff, schools and other education institutions with personal protective equipment and creating new employment positions with a view to allocate the necessary staff resources.

In solidarity,

S. Flocchu