

To Branch Secretaries

Campaign in Support of the Congress 10 Point Plan for a Social Solidarity Pact

The strategy of the Executive Committee to date has been to support the Irish Congress of Trade Union's response to the Government's unilateral decision. This strategy has been supported by two meetings of the Association's Consultative Council.

The Executive Committee, following extensive consultation with members, decided that there was not a sufficient support for stand-alone industrial action by the Association. There was, however, a very strong level of support for taking action in conjunction with our colleague Unions in ICTU.

A meeting of the ICTU Executive Council to review the campaign in support of the Congress 10 Point Plan for a Social Solidarity Pact has decided to up the stakes by offering to negotiate a three year agreement with Government based on the Plan. In default of the Government accepting this initiative, the Executive Council of ICTU decided that the campaign would have to be sustained and measures taken to protect pay and conditions. In respect of the latter, the Government has resiled from the terms of the Towards 2016 Transitional Agreement agreed only last September. Consequently, a national collective agreement no longer exists.

ICTU has invited affiliated unions to conduct ballots for industrial action, up to and including strike action. The objective of the strike action is to achieve compliance with the terms of the Towards 2016 Transitional Agreement or to achieve an acceptable alternative.

The Executive Committee of the Association has decided to ballot members on a one day work stoppage on the 30th of March. If further action is contemplated after 30 March, it will be necessary to ballot members again.

The Executive Committee has considered this issue and is strongly recommending to members to vote in favour of such action.

Yours sincerely

Dave Thomas
General Secretary
4 March 2009