



## EFFAT/IUF-Europe stands with Spanish trade unions in their call for the re-election of a progressive government

The European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food, Agriculture, Tourism sectors and allied branches (EFFAT/IUF-Europe) joins the Spanish trade unions, Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT) and Comisiones Obreras (CCOO), in their legitimate call for the re-election of a progressive government in Spain, on 23 July 2023.

EFFAT/IUF-Europe is a strong defender of human and workers rights, standing by all those who struggle to exercise their fundamental rights to fair work and dignity in Europe. Cross-border trade union solidarity is the main asset of EFFAT/IUF-Europe's action. Working for a fairer, more social Europe, we aim to safeguard and strengthen the very fundamental values upon which Europe is built: human rights, freedom and democracy.

Democratic progress has been under threat recently, as the far-right has been gaining ground and riding high in the polls in many Member States. The impact is huge both at national and European level, as the welfare of the European Union is intrinsically linked to the stability of each Member State.

We cannot afford to stand by and watch the rise and prevalence of the far-right extremism and populism. Urgent action needs to be taken at both national and European level to preserve peace, democracy and social justice.

The elections in Spain on 23 July 2023 will be crucial. Spanish trade unions have achieved unprecedented social advancements with the current progressive government. However, in the absence of adequate safeguards, these elections could be fertile ground for democracy erosion.

That is why EFFAT/IUF-Europe seizes this opportunity to say NO to regressive conservative policies and strongly supports a progressive government option in Spain as well as in Europe as a whole. We stand shoulder to shoulder with all those who are making important contributions to a more inclusive and democratic Europe.

Not to mention that in these times of the Spanish Presidency, a progressive Spanish government could better align and contribute to the EU's political agenda.

Democratic trade unionism stands for progressive societies, united working people, a better life for all, based on the core values of democracy, peace, unity, pluralism, equality and solidarity. The democratic trade union movement and the extreme right wing are two movements that could not have less in common.

EFFAT/IUF-Europe, strongly committed to the aforementioned fundamental values of democracy, equality, social progress and justice, supports the path taken by Spain and calls for a vote for the political parties that will allow a progressive government to be re-elected in Spain.

The democratic electoral process should promote democracy, not restrict it.

Kristjan Bragason  
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