



Solidarity with striking workers in Belgium!

The Brussels local branch of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD) declares its solidarity with Belgian trade unions and workers opposing the Belgian government's planned austerity measures under Prime Minister Bart De Wever. In principle, the local branch welcomes reforms that stabilise and future-proof social systems. However, the **Belgian government's current plans are neither fair nor socially balanced**; they primarily affect the most vulnerable in society, including the unemployed, single parents, the sick, and low-income earners, while sparing top earners and the wealthy.

The SPD and its European sister parties have always advocated policies that strengthen workers' rights, guarantee social security, and promote the fair distribution of wealth. However, cuts to unemployment benefits, pensions and other social benefits **attack the solidarity of the community and exacerbate the divide between rich and poor**. The planned 'modernisation' of the labour market will lead to precarious employment conditions that primarily benefit employers while shifting the risks unilaterally onto employees. The SPD local branch condemns this policy as an attack on social solidarity and the achievements of the Belgian welfare state.

The SPD local branch in Brussels therefore calls on the Belgian government to withdraw the planned cuts and **attacks on wage indexation**. Instead, the government should enter into dialogue with trade unions and those affected to develop viable, socially acceptable alternatives. Rather than shifting the burden of the crisis onto the most vulnerable, the Belgian government **must ensure greater tax fairness by introducing a wealth tax on large fortunes, taxing the digital activities of tech giants**, and seriously reviewing the billions in subsidies given to companies.

The appeal is also directed at German politicians, urging them to commit to a European fiscal, economic and social policy that focuses on investment in education, health and social security rather than austerity measures that target the most vulnerable. **Solidarity knows no borders** – the fight for social justice is a shared responsibility in Belgium, Germany and Europe.

The SPD local branch in Brussels assures the Belgian strikers of its full support and calls on all democratic forces to join this protest. Only **together can we implement policies that serve the interests of the people, not the few**.

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