



Who caused the crisis have to pay for it

The Bourses crash, the economic recession, are not out of the blue, but the dreadful result of years of economic politics in favour of the market without rules and of the most unjust globalization. In this year – Oecd data say it for Italy – the rich have become more and more rich, while the workers, the young precarious and the retired people more and more poor.

Now, when the crisis happens, they are talking to go back to State intervention in the economy and about the need for rules, but in the meanwhile, they use money only to save banks and bankers, and cut money for education, health, retirement systems and for unemployment subsidies and “cassa integrazione”.

Since many years wages are losing their purchasing power and working conditions are getting more and more hard, causing serious damages to the workers' health and life. But Confindustria (*employers' association*) aims to reduce the national contract's weight and the guarantee salary, increasing the flexible, uncertain, salary, depending on overexploitation of the workers.

The crisis is increasing, but government and Confindustria propose once more the same economic and social recipes, that caused this crisis.

We need a real change, and first of all it's needed:

- to protect the employment.

We need to stop dismissals and companies shut down, italian and multinationals. Government must intervene directly in the crisis. We need a new industrial policy to protect the employment, to fight against delocalizations, to invest on research and production's quality. We need huge public investments for environment friendly industry, for clean energy, for an urban development join to the real needs of the people, for the development of the Mezzogiorno area (the South of Italy). For all these reasons it's needed to overcome the constraints of The European Maastricht Treaty.

The defense of the employment has to be accompanied by the defense of the health. We need to reject all the attempts of Confindustria to reduce the weight of the current laws protecting health.

There is a need for an extraordinary State intervention for the defense of the health and the life of the workers, condemning and repressing all the behaviours against them;

- to stop precarity

We need to change the laws which permitted the spreading of the precarious work and that now could produce hundreds of thousand unemployed, mostly young people but elderly too.

We need immediately to extend to all the workers the redundancy payments (*cassa integrazione*) instead of lay offs. *Cassa Integrazione* has to be a right also for precarious workers. The unemployed have to get a bigger unemployment subsidy and for more time. Stop to the persecution of migrant workers: they are continually blackmailed to lose their residence permit if they lose their job. More stability for migrants means more rights for everyone.

“Solidarity contracts” have to be extended to the companies facing a crisis, and the unruled working time flexibility must be stopped, because it destroys health and employment: the current law must be changed and first of all it must be restated the limit of daily working time. The fiscal advantages for the overtime work must be eliminated;

- to protect wages

Workers' wages, starting with the ones established in the national contract, have to increase. For this reason we have to refuse Confindustria's document that reduces the real wage, starting with the national contract, and wants to impose more flexibility and uncertainty for the wage at company level. We don't want that the wages follow the stock market trend and destiny. For this reason we request also a positive conclusion of ongoing companies negotiations.

In order to support the workers and retired person's income, it is needed to cut taxes of the wages and of the medium-low pensions, to detax the extra month's salary for everyone, to detax the redundancy payments (*cassa integrazione*), to cancel the fiscal drag from the fixed incomes. We need that State intervenes on the prices, starting with the petrol's one, and we need a reduction of the first house's loans and the rentals;

- to restore social and fiscal justice

The fight against tax evasion must restart, raising the taxes on the great wealth, the great inheritance, the finance and the great real estate. There is a real need for a strong fight against privileges and to get efficient the public administration. The fiscal justice has to make effective and just the welfare State, improving first of all the public education system; therefore we say «No» to the last government's decrees that make school come back to Fifties. We need the improvement of the public Health, and the strengthening of the public retirement systems, that has no realistic alternative;

- to assert democracy

Government and Confindustria want to restrict workers' freedom. Government proposes a law that reduces the right to strike in public and in private sectors. Confindustria proposes sanctions against trade unions and workers representatives who don't respect the rules they want to impose on collective bargaining. At the same time it is re-starting the attack against «article 18» (of the «Workers's Statute», law n. 300 of the 1970), that protects workers against unjust dismissals. Authoritarian behaviours are increasing in every work place.

We say «No» to the workers freedom restrictions. We request in all workplaces the full implementation of Constitutional rights. We claim a law about labour democracy, which can guarantee to all the workers the right to elect freely their representatives and the right to decide about trade union's platforms and agreements that concern them.

Things will not change by themselves. People that, in economy and politics, are used to shift all the costs onto workers, will not change only with words. So, we have to mobilize.

The metalworkers mobilize in order to claim that the economic recover will be based on workers rights and on wages increase.

The metalworkers struggle will be part of the broader struggle of all the labour movement to defend employment and rights; to change the economic and social policies.

Friday, 12th December 2008
Italian metalworkers strike
for employment, rights, wages, democracy
We are the real economy

Rome, October 31st 2008