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Brussels, 11 October 2016

Dear Mr. Martins,

I am writing to you to express EPSU's solidarity with the strike action your union members will be taking on 13-14 October.

We would also like to congratulate you on the successful actions in 2015 and 2016 which led to a collective agreement on the pay scale for nurses and a return to the 35-hour week.

We hope that your current action will be equally successful. We understand that you are calling for an unfreezing of the career progression for nurses and, linked to this, relevant changes to the nurses' pay scale.

You also want to see open recruitment for the positions of chief nurse and a review of the salary scale for general nurses, taking account of the fact that they have a university diploma.

We hope that you achieve your aims and take another step towards ensuring that nurses are given the proper recognition, in terms of salaries and employment conditions, that their work and dedication deserve.

We try to keep up-to-date with developments in Portugal in our collective bargaining newsletter (see reports on SEP actions in September (www.epsu.org/epsucob/2016-september-epsucobnews-12) and August (www.epsu.org/epsucob/2016-august-epsucobnews-10)).

With this we inform other health and social service unions, including the nurse trade unions, of your actions and your contribution to our common struggle for improved pay and conditions for Europe's workers.

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Please keep us informed about your current action.

Yours in solidarity,



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary

EPSU is the European Federation of Public Service Unions. It is the largest federation of the ETUC and comprises 8 million public service workers from over 265 trade unions; EPSU organises workers in the energy, water and waste sectors, health and social services and local and national administration, in all European countries including in the EU's Eastern Neighborhood. EPSU is the recognized regional organization of Public Services International (PSI). For more information on EPSU and our work please go to: www.epsu.org

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