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**Re.: industriAll European Trade Union supports Spanish aerospace workers and stands in solidarity with them in their general strike on 22 September**

Dear General Secretaries,  
Dear comrades, friends,

Considering the current challenges facing aerospace workers in Spain, we are writing to **express our support and solidarity with you and your members, ahead of the planned strike on 22 September.**

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the European aerospace sector, a sector that is very important in Spain generating around **108,000 jobs**. These jobs are well paid, high quality jobs and we support your demand that companies and the Spanish Government must take urgent action to safeguard these jobs.

The agreement between Airbus and the Spanish Government of 30 July, which aimed to give a lifeline to the sector and protect workers, was welcomed by the Spanish trade unions. We are therefore extremely disappointed that the situation has taken a dramatic change in such a short time and that many companies in the sector, including Airbus, have announced **major restructuring processes which will lead to huge job losses.**

The Spanish system of **ERTE** (temporary employment regulation scheme) has been a great support to aerospace workers, and we support calls for this to be extended post 30 September. Suppliers, as well as the main producers, have benefitted from ERTE, and therefore we were extremely concerned to learn that some of the bigger tier 1 suppliers in Spain (ITP Aero, Aciturri Alestis and Aernnova) have decided to transform their ERTes into **EREs** (Employment Regulation Schemes) which could result in around **3500 redundancies.**

These companies have received support from the State and we now expect them to support their workers. We stand with trade unions in rejecting the decision to implement EREs when discussions to extend the ERTE are still ongoing. **We expect companies to fully engage with trade unions to identify all possible avenues and support schemes to protect jobs.**

The COVID-19 crisis, although grave, is also temporary and it is crucial to keep the capacity and knowhow within Europe. Furthermore, we are aware that Spain has suffered a double blow. Not only is the commercial aerospace sector strongly affected by COVID-19, but recent cuts in Airbus defence projects (A400M) have also been announced. This greatly reduces the possibility of cushioning the blow by reorganising work within the sector from commercial to defence activities.

Finally, we support your demand to urgently establish an **aeronautic sector roundtable**, including the Spanish government, companies and trade unions to seek solutions to the problems generated by the COVID-19 crisis. Redundancies and attempts to dismantle the working conditions must be avoided. Although we cannot be with you in person on 22 September, we stand with you and your members in opposing job cuts in the aerospace sector.

In solidarity,

**Luc Triangle**  
**General Secretary**  
**IndustriAll European Trade Union**

**Isabelle Barthes**  
**Deputy General Secretary**  
**IndustriAll European Trade Union**