Mr. Jean Paul Philippot  
President  
Ms. Ingrid Deltenre  
Executive Director  
EBU Headquarters  
L’Ancienne-Route 17A  
CH-1218 Grand-Saconnex  
Switzerland  

Nyon, 20 August 2013

Dear President Philippot,

Dear Executive Director Deltenre,

I am writing to you in response to the open letter of 24 July and the EBU press release of 19 August to convey the grave concerns of the community of trade unions in public service broadcasting regarding the EBU’s decision to cease streaming ERT via its satellite capacity.

The unions affiliated to UNI Global Union agree with the assessment of our colleagues at POSPERT that, at this moment in time, there is no sufficient guarantee that the interim service will be editorially independent and that the news bulleting as well as the entire programming will satisfy public service media values. Whereas DT only offers a partial programming despite the resources of a government behind it, ERT continues to produce a 24 hour programming under very difficult circumstances and with the objective to preserve independent public service broadcasting in Greece. DT is currently operating without clarified and legitimate conditions employing staff recruited from outside ERT, despite the government’s promise to set-up the interim service by employing only ERT staff. Transition would have been possible, as proposed by the unions and the opposition parties, within the framework of ERT.

I urge you to reconsider this decision and call on the EBU to continue at least the streaming of the ERT programmes via satellite in order to allow Greek citizens to continue to listen and watch their public service broadcaster.

I would also like to raise our concerns regarding the Greek government’s attitude and actions towards ERT employees in recent weeks. Multiple attempts to intimidate and discourage ERT employees have been made in order to silence their protest and to stop their efforts keeping public service broadcasting alive. Now they are facing discrimination. It is vital for the legitimacy of public broadcasting in Greece that it is built in dialogue with and respect of the public broadcasting workers.

UNI Global Union and its affiliates remain committed to contribute to preserve and cherish public service broadcasting in Greece and seek to continue the dialogue with the Greek authorities, the EBU and the European Institutions.

Yours sincerely,

Philip J. Jennings  
General Secretary  
UNI Global Union