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Workers' Group
EESC

Ana Botín-Sanz de Sautuola y O'Shea
Executive Chair – Santander Group

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14 September 2021

Re: Bank worker dismissals at Banco Santander Portugal

Dear Ms Botín-Sanz de Sautuola y O'Shea,

Since September 2020, the Portuguese banking trade unions – Mais Sindicato/ Financial Sector Union, Bankers Union of the Center (SBC) and Financial Sector Workers Union of Portugal (SBN), affiliated to UGT-Portugal – have been in conflict with Santander Totta Bank (BST).

For this past year, the workers in Banco Santander in Portugal have been subjected to threats and pressure to accept the termination of their employment contracts and are now faced with collective dismissal procedures.

We the undersigned express our deep concerns about the ongoing behaviour of Banco Santander in Portugal. Using the pretext of the Covid-19 pandemic and the acceleration in the use of digital tools, the bank is showing complete disregard for its workers' wellbeing, bulldozing ahead with its restructuring plans regardless of the trade union calls for a measured approach. This undermines the basic principles of social dialogue and risks leaving hundreds of workers unemployed during these precarious times.

We urge you to engage in a genuine dialogue with the Portuguese trade unions in question to continue to find a timely and mutually agreeable solution respecting workers' rights, protecting their jobs and conditions, and guaranteeing the fundamental role of trade unions in these bargaining negotiations.

We look forward to your appropriate action on the matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Sharan Burrow
General
Secretary
ITUC

Luca Visentini
General
Secretary
ETUC

Christy Hoffman
General
Secretary
UNI Global
Union

Oliver Roethig
Regional
Secretary
UNI Europa

Oliver Röpke
President
EESC Workers'
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Cc: Juan Gorostidi Pulgar, Industrial Relations Director, Santander Group