

A catalogue of Orpo-Purra Government cuts



Erosion of working conditions

- No pay for the first day of sick leave
- Job alternation leave abolished
- “Relevant grounds” are enough to dismiss an employee
- Conditions below the statutory standard may be agreed at workplaces with no shop steward
- Special grounds for temporary employment only required when the job lasts for longer than one year
- Hampering settlement of industrial disputes by limiting the powers of the national conciliator
- A shortened period of layoff notice
- No duty to re-engage dismissed workers in businesses with fewer than 50 employees

Restrictions on the right to strike

- Restrictions on sympathetic and political strike action
- A €200 fine for individual strikers when a strike is found to be illegal
- A dramatic increase in union strike fines

Cuts in social welfare

- Child supplements abolished in unemployment benefit
- Earnings-related unemployment benefit already reduced after two months
- A prolonged waiting period for unemployment benefit
- Wage-subsidised employment no longer counting towards the employment condition for earnings-related benefit
- A longer employment condition for earnings-related benefit
- An employment condition based on prior earnings instead of working time
- Cuts in housing allowance
- Eligibility for unemployment benefit to begin only after phasing of outstanding holiday compensation
- Obstacles to eligibility for social assistance
- Abolition of the unemployment benefit and housing allowance portions that are protected during part-time working
- Abolition of adult education benefit
- Cuts in benefits for unemployed elderly workers
- Abolition of the increased parental allowance rate payable for the first 16 ordinary weekdays *)

*) The Government announced on 19 September 2023 that it is seeking alternative measures