**BRIEF INFORMATION ON THE DISMISSAL OF JUAN PABLO MATEO TOMÉ**  
I have worked in the Economics dept. at the Pontificia Comillas University (institution of the *Society of Jesus*) since October 2007 as a full-time professor. From 2008 my employment contract was indefinite (not temporary). However, on July 23rd, the day before the start of the holidays, I was informed that I was being fired. In the letter of dismissal, they justified their action by arguing the reduction in the number of credits (hours of teaching) for the subjects related to economics, due to the restructuring of the teaching plans.

On the one hand, their reasoning is absolutely false as I was included by university authorities in the academic planning for the 2013-14 course, even with a larger number of hours than the year before, and I was going to direct a Ph. D. thesis.

On the other hand, and that is decisive, I was part of the list for the company’s union committee by the UGT (General Workers Union) for the upcoming elections to be held on October 2nd. The official communication for the upcoming union election was July 12th, and 11 days later they decided to fire me. My dismissal was unknown to the Heads of Study and, even more surprisingly, to the Economics’ dept. director. Coincidence? In Spain, members of the union committee, even when only part of the electoral list, cannot be fired except for very justifiable reasons. The law states that union activity is a fundamental right of workers.

In addition, the Service of Mediation, Arbitration and Conciliation of Madrid (SMAC) issued an order on October 7th which says that I should not be excluded from the electoral list, despite my dismissal. But after threats from the university to indefinitely paralyze the election process, UGT has decided, unilaterally and against my will, to exclude me from the list.

Therefore, I believe it could be argued: i) that my dismissal was due to ideological and non-academic reasons, as the university has continued to hire new Economics professors, but with a different "profile", and they allude to false arguments to justify their action; and ii) I believe that when realizing my union list membership, they decided to fire me in a hurry and in the utmost secrecy. This is a decision which, in my opinion, violates my fundamental right to free expression and trade union activity. Therefore, I interposed a lawsuit with the purpose of achieving the nullity of my dismissal. This claim has been accepted by the court and the trial will be held on April 2nd, 2014.