



Mr Volodymyr GROYSMAN
Prime Minister of Ukraine

DGS/JW/pdc

April 20, 2017

Dear Mr Prime Minister,

A joint mission of the International Trade Union Confederation, representing 182 million workers in 160 countries, and IndustriALL, representing 50 million workers in industrial sectors in 140 countries, had the opportunity to meet representatives of your ministers of Social Policy, Economic Development and Trade, and Energy and Coal Industry.

On behalf of our member organisations, the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine (FPU) and the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU), and their industrial federations we have expressed our deep concern about the lack of any respect shown by your government for the workers of Ukraine.

We had to conclude that the workers and their unions are desperate – they are facing huge problems that are totally undermining the future of themselves and their families.

They are facing unacceptable delays in the payment of their wages, restructuring and closures of their workplaces that lead to unemployment, and their unions are not respected as social partners to discuss and negotiate measures to protect the rights of their members.

The attitude of your ministers shows ignorance of social partners and the trade union members which forms a smouldering source for massive labour conflicts that will undermine the social stability of your country.

The attitude of your ministers is in total contradiction with the principles of cooperation between the EU and Ukraine as laid down in the Association Agreement that includes promoting of the decent work agenda and social dialogue and enhancing social cohesion and the capacity of social partners.

One of the most recent developments that shows a total lack of respect of social partners is the process of the review of the Labour Code of Ukraine.

Recommendations of the International Labour Organization were mainly ignored and trade unions are not consulted on major changes that will undermine the rights of workers in Ukraine and that will be in contradiction with international standards.

We also had to conclude that your ministers of Economic Development and Trade and of Energy and Coal Industry cannot provide any perspective on economic development or a reform that includes a protection and perspective for workers in the industrial sectors of Ukraine, while at the same time they ignore trade unions as real social partners.

Dear Mr Prime Minister, the international trade union movement is more than worried about the lack of respect that your government is showing to the workers of Ukraine.

We will support our member organisations in their struggle for a decent future of the workers of Ukraine and will inform the ILO and the European Commission about the lack of respect shown by your government for industrial labour standards.

We are asking you as Prime Minister of Ukraine to intervene and to urge members of your government to respect the International Labour Standards and to include social partners in any policy or decision that affect the workers of Ukraine to avoid unnecessary confrontations in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Burrow', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sharan Burrow
ITUC General Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Valter Sanches', with a stylized, flowing script.

Valter Sanches
IndustriALL General Secretary