



**INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION**

Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the Union for
Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
European Commission

By e-mail: federica.mogherini@ec.europa.eu

Dear High Representative,

The EU-Central Asia Ministerial Meeting will take place on Friday, 23 November 2018, in Brussels. On this occasion I would like to draw your attention again to the continuous violations of freedom of association by the Republic of Kazakhstan. We are grateful that you raised the issue in response to our communication of 21 February, but unfortunately, apart from the release of Amin Eleusinov and Nurbek Kushakbaev from prison on parole, no further steps have been taken to address the concerns of the international and European trade union movement.

The government continues to take repressive and arbitrary measures to block registration of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions of Kazakhstan and its affiliates, depriving thousands of workers of occupational representation.

Furthermore, a lawsuit has been launched against Yerlan Baltabai, the leader of the sectoral union of fuel and energy workers, and the union office was searched and union documentation confiscated. Psychological pressure is growing on other activists and their families. On Saturday, 10 November 2018, a physical assault was committed against Dmitry Senyavskiy, chair of the local branch of the union of fuel and energy workers in the Karaganda region, who received a closed-head injury, arm fractures, and numerous other injuries.

The authorities intervene in other internal trade union affairs, forcing trade union members to leave the unions of their choice, using administrative pressure, threats and intimidation, particularly in the budget sector.

These developments demonstrate a persistent lack of progress in implementing conclusions adopted by the Committee on Application of Standards of the International Labour Conference in 2017 (CAS). Kazakhstan is rated in the 2018 ITUC Global Rights Index as one of the ten worst countries for violations of workers' rights.

We urge you to raise the above concerns about the new attacks on trade union freedoms with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and to reiterate that the European Union expects concrete steps from Kazakhstan to bring its actions into conformity with ILO Conventions Nos. 87 and 98 by implementing the conclusions of the Committee on Application of Standards without any further delay.

We hope to receive your feedback in due course and will continue monitoring the situation closely, and remain at your disposal for further information and follow-up.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Burrow', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Sharan Burrow
General Secretary
ITUC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luca Visentini', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Luca Visentini
General Secretary
ETUC and PERC