

João Antonio Felicio

President
Président
Präsident
Presidente

**The Mayor,
City of Sisak
Rimska 26, Sisak 44000
Hrvatska**

Attention: Ms Kristina Ikic Banicek

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
Secrétaire générale
Generalsekretärin
Secretaria General

LEX/PKD

06 March 2018

Refusal to negotiate a collective agreement and violation of trade union rights

Dear Kristina Ikic Banicek,

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) represents 207 million members of 331 affiliates in 163 countries and territories including the Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia (UATUC) and its affiliates on whose behalf we write.

We are deeply concerned about your office's refusal to renew collective bargaining agreements expired in the year 2014 with several public sector unions in the city of Sisak, including the Autonomous Trade Union of Workers in Public Utilities and Housing Services (SSKH), Trade Union of Education, Media and Culture (SOMK) and the Trade Union of Transport and Communications (SPIVH). There are serious concerns that the refusal to recognize the fundamental right of workers to engage in collective bargaining negotiations constitutes a retaliatory measure in response to a criminal suit filed against you by the SSKH with the County State Attorney.

The denial of the right to negotiate for improved working conditions afforded through collective bargaining agreements is not only an unacceptable breach of national and international law but also the trust built through long-standing industrial relations in the city. Croatia is a member state of the International Labour Organization and ratified Convention No. 87 on Freedom of Association and Convention No.98 on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining. The ILO Committee of Freedom of Association clearly stated that employers, including governmental authorities in the capacity of employers, should recognize for collective bargaining purposes the organizations representative of the workers employed by them.

Therefore, we call upon you to immediately bring your actions into conformity with the international obligations undertaken by the Government of Croatia. Good faith collective bargaining negotiations with all unions in the city of Sisak should be restored with no further delay.

We thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary

Cc: The Minister of Labour and Pensions
Government of Croatia,
Zagreb, Croatia.

The President,
Social and Democratic Party of Croatia
Trg Drage Iblera 9, 1000,
Zagreb, Croatia.

The President
UATUC
Trg Kralja Petra
Kresimira IV.2
10,000 Zagreb
Croatia.

