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Demand to arrange immediate payment of all arrears in wages in mining industry of Ukraine

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](#) and the [International Trade Union Confederation](#), we want to express our protest against the inability, bordering on reluctance, of the Ukrainian government to fulfil its international and national obligations to guaranty timely and full payment of wages in Ukraine, particularly in the mining industry. We demand your urgent involvement in order to settle the situation.

According to the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry of Ukraine, as of 1 August 2018 the wage debt amounted to 103,797 million UAH. Furthermore, some miners have not been paid since spring this year. For example, the mining enterprises of the State Enterprise "Pervomaiskvugillya" have still not been paid more than 8 million UAH for March, and almost 15 million UAH for April. These workers are now protesting in Kiev.

Earlier, we were informed by our member organisations – Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine (NGPU) and Confederation of Free Trade Union of Ukraine (KVPU) – that miners of the State Enterprise "Selidovugol" also had to recourse to protests against non-payment of wages. Obviously, the government is either unable or unwilling to address the demands of workers, who simply call for their work to be paid and the future of their jobs, and thus of their families, to be part of a genuine social dialogue with their unions.

This situation is a shame for a country with European aspirations. The government of Ukraine does not only violate the obligations under ILO Convention 95 on Protection of Wages, but also the founding principles of the European Union, including social dialogue, which are enshrined in the EU Founding Treaty, as well as provisions of the European Social Charter.

We fully support our brothers and sisters who are protesting against non-payment of wages, wage arrears and the absence of social dialogue and transparent inclusive consultations about the future of the industry and the regions & territories that depend on it, as well as workers and their families who earn their living from coal mining.

We urge the Ukrainian government to arrange for the immediate payment of all arrears, to enter into a dialogue with the miners and their unions and to start proper institutionalized dialogue structures, that would include all stakeholders affected, in order to discuss a just transition in the sector and affected regions.

Looking forward to your prompt reaction,

Yours sincerely,



Valter Sanches
General Secretary
IndustriALL Global Union
II



Sharan Burrow
General Secretary
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