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**MICHAEL SOMMER**  
PRESIDENT  
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**SHARAN BURROW**  
GENERAL SECRETARY  
SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRALE  
GENERALSEKRETÄRIN  
SECRETARIA GENERAL

Mr Jaanbekov Asylbek Sharipovich  
Speaker of Parliament  
Bishkek  
Kyrgyz Republic

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PERC/AL/pw

Brussels, 25 March 2014

Dear Mr. Speaker,

On behalf of the ITUC, I would like to express our concerns about the draft law that would introduce criminal liability for work interruption at so-called strategic enterprises. An enterprise would be considered strategic if it creates more than 2% of the national GDP. On 28 February 2014, the official website of Ghogorku Khenesha of Kyrgyz Republic ([www.kenesh.kg](http://www.kenesh.kg)) posted for official consideration a draft bill, which deputy O. Tekhebayev prepared (registration number № 6-5453/14), for making an amendment in the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic.

We strongly believe that the adoption of these legislative provisions would seriously restrict the right to strike of the workers of these enterprises in Kyrgyzstan, a right that is recognised in the Constitution and legislation of Kyrgyzstan. Article 43 of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic guarantees the right to strike to every citizen of Kyrgyzstan. The bill would also violate the Conventions of the International Labour Organization that Kyrgyzstan ratified.

Restriction of the right to strike deprives workers of the last resort – the means – to bargain collectively for their interests and would eventually destabilise the industrial relations system and potentially could lead to other, more radical forms of collective protest and action.

Mr Speaker, we hope you will do whatever possible to make sure this law is not enforced and that the national legislation of Kyrgyzstan is in compliance with its international obligations and the Constitution.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Burrow', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sharan Burrow  
General Secretary

Encls. : Russian translation of ITUC letter

cc: Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyzstan (FPKg)