

João Antonio Felício

President
Président
Präsident
Presidente

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
Secrétaire générale
Generalsekretärin
Secretaria General

Mr Andriy Parubiy

Chair, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

By e-mail: postmaster@rada.kiev.ua

Mr Volodymyr Groysman

Prime Minister of Ukraine

By e-mail: web@kmu.gov.ua

PERC/AL/pw

Brussels, 25 January 2017

Dear Chair Parubiy,
Dear Prime Minister Groysman,

I write to you on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the world's largest trade union confederation representing 181 million workers from 340 national affiliates in 163 countries and territories, to express our serious concerns about introduction of new legislative acts affecting the right to collective bargaining without full and detailed consultations with trade unions.

We have been informed about the adoption of "Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine No. 1774-VII" by the Verkhovna Rada on 1 January 2017. Our affiliates in the Ukraine, the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine (FPU) and the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU), have not been consulted in this process even though the legal amendments concern substantive changes to collective bargaining and minimum wage setting procedures. The amendments require social partners to renegotiate valid collective agreements within a three-month period.

The Ukraine has ratified ILO Convention No. 87 on Freedom of Association and ILO Convention No. 98 on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining. The ILO Committee on Freedom of Association has repeatedly highlighted that it is essential that the introduction of draft legislation affecting collective bargaining or conditions of employment should be preceded by full and detailed consultations with workers' and employers' organisations. Legislation requiring the renegotiation of collective agreements is contrary to the principles of free and voluntary collective bargaining enshrined in Convention No. 98.

Therefore, we strongly urge you to repeal the “Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine No. 1774-VII” and to engage in full and detailed consultations with trade unions about legislative amendments in relation to labour laws.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. R...' with a large flourish at the end.

General Secretary

cc: FPU and KVPU (by e-mail)