

Ayuba Wabba

President
Président
Präsident
Presidente

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
Secrétaire générale
Generalsekretärin
Secretaria General

Mr Edi Rama
Prime Minister of the
Republic of Albania
Dëshmorët e Kombi
Tirana
Albania

By e-mail: info@kryeministeria.al

PERC/AL/pw

Brussels, 22 April 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

Social Dialogue in Albania

These extraordinary times require extraordinary measures. Governments worldwide have adopted measures to provide support to the population, workers and companies and to preserve economies from collapsing. The most comprehensive and solid response has been achieved in those countries where these measures have been developed through social dialogue and engagement of social partners. Social partners have reached important agreements in numerous countries, including in a majority of European states.

On behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), I want to express our concerns about lack of dialogue with social partners, and representative unions in particular, in developing legal measures to tackle the extraordinary situation the virus has provoked. Several legal acts very important for Albanian workers, including a “Law on the extraordinary situation”, have been drafted by the government without any involvement of the two representative trade union confederations in Albania – the ITUC-affiliated KSSH and BPSH. Moreover, the two national centres are not included in the Inter- Ministerial Committee of Civil Emergencies, an advisory body to the government in this crisis situation.

As the ILO recently made clear, the COVID-19 crisis should not be used to reduce human and social rights, especially trade union and workers’ rights. Just the opposite: COVID-19 is a brutal reminder of how important it is to protect workers’ rights. By ignoring the principle of social dialogue, your government not only fails to respect internationally recognised standards, but also undermines the trust necessary for broad understanding and acceptance of the measures in the society and by the workers, represented by their unions.

The ITUC therefore calls upon your government to involve, without further delay, representative trade unions KSSH and BSPSH in consultations about social and economic measures to protect the economy, jobs and the incomes of working people, while ensuring respect of the rights of citizens and workers in this time of response to the crisis.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B...', written over a light blue horizontal line.

General Secretary

Cc: BSPSH

KSSH