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Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
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PERC/AL

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Solidarity with protesting miners

Dear Mikhail, dear sisters and brothers,

On behalf of the ITUC, I would like to express our solidarity with the workers and their families from the mining regions of Ukraine, who face the negligence and unwillingness of the Ukrainian authorities to address issues of local and sectoral development that the unions of Ukraine have been raising for years.

Since the 30th of June, hundreds of workers from the eastern and western coal regions of Ukraine have been protesting in front of the Office of the President of Ukraine, the Government and the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry of Ukraine. We fully support your demands for timely payment of wages; for employment protection; for industrial and regional development policies that prioritise decent work and life for all citizens, instead of forcing them to leave their homes and families in search of sustainable incomes abroad; and for accountability of authorities and businesses to the citizens.

We regret that the authorities have failed to act in a responsible manner to discuss these issues with the workers and their union representatives and guarantee the rights of citizens to peaceful demonstration and protest while at the same time some police officers have exceeded their powers and chosen the path of confrontation.

Dear Mikhail, please convey to all the brave working women and men from the mining regions, who continue their fight for dignity and decent life, our feelings of the deepest solidarity and support.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary