



PERC PAN-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL CRE CONSEIL REGIONAL EUROPEEN
BEPС ВСЕЕВРОПЕЙСКИЙ РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЙ СОВЕТ

PERC Executive Committee's statement on vaccination

Vaccination against COVID-19 is the most efficient means to combat pandemics, may reduce transmission and certainly reduces serious illnesses, hospitalisations and deaths. Trade unions of PERC support vaccination programmes in our countries and underline that progress in vaccination of the population allowed many countries in the region to overcome immediate healthcare system pressures, to lift sanitary restrictions, and to make important steps towards normalization of economic, social and cultural life. Unions have a major role to play in encouraging working people and their families to get vaccinated, and to represent workers in matters related to vaccination.

Nevertheless, the level and scope of coverage by vaccination is very diverse in the region. Unfortunately, in some countries of the region the percentage of fully vaccinated population is less than 20%, and only in several reached two thirds. That is caused by deficits and limited access to vaccines, but also reflects low awareness, distrust and skepticism about governmental programmes and employer approaches, confusing vaccination jurisdictions, spreading of fictive certification, and the uncleanness of certain political figures who exploit human fears and fuel antivax feelings. That hampers efforts of the region to combat propagation of the infection, leading to human and economic losses.

Trade unions urge all workers and members of their families to get vaccinated and are ready to facilitate development of clear, understandable, and accepted mechanisms of vaccination and control that do not violate democratic rights and freedoms of citizens, and their implementation in practice in the interest of health and safety of population.

The PERC calls all the countries of the region:

- To recognize the priority of health and safety over commercial and political interests in reality, not in words alone. Waiving intellectual property limitations is a precondition for winning over infection. It has to be accompanied by the promotion of vaccine production in countries and regions that do not have their own technological and material resources. This is not charity from rich countries, it is an investment in our common health and future.
- To run awareness-raising campaigns among the population and to work with workers' organisations to improve vaccination coverage, and not to reduce the role of state exclusively to dictation and compulsion. Vaccination should not be an additional ground

for discrimination, stigmatization and social discord. Social dialog facilitates effective and agreed approaches to vaccination of workers especially in professions of high risk, while participation of trade unions in awareness raising contributes to building trust and acceptance of specific initiatives and programmes by citizens.

- To urgently reconcile mutual recognition of vaccines that have proved their efficiency and implement standardization of certification. That will boost interest in vaccination among the hesitant, reduce incentives for corruption, and allow the restoration of people-to-people contacts. That is in the interest of all workers and citizens, not only of political or business elites.