



INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION



Mr. Viktor Orban
Prime Minister of Hungary
1357 Budapest
Hungary

By e-mail: titkarsag@me.gov.hu

Brussels, 11 December 2014

Dear Prime Minister,

The ITUC/PERC and the ETUC express their full support for the national protest action organised by our Hungarian affiliates LIGA and MSZOSZ, together with other trade unions, on 15 December 2014 against a range of unacceptable measures proposed by the Government. These include continuing the freeze of public sector wages, eliminating early retirement provisions for work in heavy and dangerous conditions and cutting fringe benefits. The measures announced by the government will hit millions of working men and women in Hungary and worsen their future chances while it is questionable whether they will contribute to stabilising the economy. Similar policy approaches elsewhere in the EU have already produced dire outcomes in the economic and social areas, the rationale of which has been questioned by the IMF among other international organisations.

In a country with more than third of the population in poverty or at risk of it, and the number of “working poor” following closely, the current measures may result in increasing the deadweight on the economy rather than enhance stability and help reenergise it. Improving the efficiency of public finances will be served much better by strengthening the integrity of the system and public control over it, and enhancing transparency and accountability. Respect for trade unions and genuine social dialogue is a key factor for stability and building trust towards governance and the democratic process.

We believe that the Hungarian government will do well to listen to the voice of the working people and revisit the current proposals. It should address the root causes of the challenges the country is facing in these areas by aiming at creating quality jobs, decent incomes and conditions of work and should rely on genuine social dialogue with a view to securing more stable and sustainable solutions for the future.

We also reiterate the support for the repeated demands of our Hungarian affiliates that the serious deficiencies and non-compliance of the Labour Law and the provisions on the right to strike need to be removed to unlock the full potential of social dialogue and the possibility for trade unions to contribute to finding more stable and sustainable solutions for the future.

Yours in solidarity,



Sharan Burrow
ITUC General Secretary



Bernadette Ségol
ETUC General Secretary
PERC General Secretary

Cc: LIGA
MSZOSZ