



**INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION  
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION**

Mr Zoran Zaev  
Prime Minister of the Republic of  
North Macedonia  
Skopje  
Macedonia

By e-mail: [info@vlada.gov.mk](mailto:info@vlada.gov.mk)

PERC/AL/pw

Brussels, 14 June 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

**Repression of trade unions in North Macedonia**

The ITUC and the ETUC are concerned about continuous systematic pressure and attacks on our affiliate KSS and its trade unions, and the discrimination against trade union leaders and representatives, reflected in demotions, mobbing, harassment, and dismissals.

Previously, we expressed our indignation about violations against the Independent Trade Union of Energy when union members were transferred to another union by the administration or arbitrarily assigned to posts in remote parts of North Macedonia. In connection with these violations, KSS also addressed the labour inspection, and as this provided no results, a court procedure was conducted before the competent court, which passed a verdict – already final – in favour of KSS members. Unfortunately, to date this judgment has not been implemented. Please be informed that we are working on development of a complaint to the International Labour Organisation about this well-documented case of violation of ILO Convention 87 by North Macedonia.

Furthermore, we are also concerned about the fact that KSS was denied full involvement in the national social dialogue, prevented from participating in the process of economic and social policy building, and denied the possibility to represent the interests and promote the rights of its members in development of actions to tackle the challenges of the health and economic crisis. We understand that while certain improvements have occurred in relations between different trade union organisations of the country, the discrimination against KSS by state officials and public institutions continues, and the pressure does not stop.

We particularly deplore that KSS's request for representativeness, submitted in July 2019, is still delayed and is de facto denied. Such denial, in our view, is a rejection – under political motivation – of trade union pluralism. KSS, as well as another trade union confederation, CCM,

is a full and well-recognised member of the International Trade Union Confederation and the European Trade Union Confederation.

We urge you to stop all interference in KSS activities and to guarantee that all trade unions are treated equally and without favouritism within the national social dialogue as well as within the EU accession processes.

Mr Prime Minister, you have demonstrated, by resolving old political blockages, your commitment to achieving progress in North Macedonia in relation to accession to the European Union. We urge you to pay the same attention to the equal treatment in your country of independent trade unions, members of the European and international trade union movement. The recently adopted Porto Declaration represents a symbolic point for Europe, confirming that the social dimension of Europe is back on track, and this implies that EU Member States guarantee the full involvement of trade unions through social dialogue in policymaking. We call on you to demonstrate that this is also so in the case of North Macedonia.

Sincerely yours,



Sharan Burrow  
General Secretary  
ITUC



Luca Visentini  
General Secretary  
ETUC and PERC

cc: KSS  
ITUC SEE Office