



Ljubljana, 10 February 2017

Dear Colleagues!

Subject: Information on the raising of minimum wage in Slovenia


We would like to inform you of events concerning the minimum wage in Slovenia. As you may already know, our country's minimum wage is regulated by an act that was adopted in early 2010 and entered into force on 23 February 2010. The Minimum Wage Act envisages, among other things, the adjustment of the minimum wage to the increase in the prices of basic necessities of life once a year, using official data from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia on the interannual increase in the prices of basic necessities from December of the previous year compared to December of the year before that. When determining minimum wage, one can consider, in addition to the increase in the prices of basic necessities, the wage trends, the economic conditions or economic growth, and employment trends. The act also lays down that the minimum wage is determined by the Minister of Labour after consulting with social partners, and that it enters into force by 31 January of the current year.

In 2016, the minimum wage, which amounted to a gross wage of EUR 790.73 or a net wage of EUR 604, did not increase as a result of the deflation in 2015. In 2016, the inflation rate in Slovenia amounted to 0.5%, which is why employers expected the minimum wage to be raised by the same percentage. The Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia (ZSSS) proposed the raising of the minimum wage by 5 percent, since, in addition to the increase in the costs of living, we also considered the additional elements laid down in the act: economic growth, wage trends and employment trends. We also pointed out that the minimum wage had not been adjusted for two years, and that in 2015 it was adjusted by only 0.2% or EUR 1.6. Our proposal was supported by the remaining 6 representative central organisations of trade unions; however, at the meeting of the Economic and Social Council, the Minister of Labour proposed the raising of the minimum wage by 1.8 percent, as had been decided by the Government; her proposal was adopted.

Of course, we at ZSSS are not entirely satisfied with this increase in the minimum wage, because the government ignored our request; however, it is true that it also ignored the request of employer organisations to raise the minimum wage by only 0.5%. The gross minimum wage currently amounts to slightly less than EUR 805 and the net minimum wage

to EUR 614. In Slovenia, around 22,700 workers employed in the private sector are currently receiving minimum wage, and a little over 8,100 employees in the public sector.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dušan Semolič". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Dušan SEMOLIČ, LL.M

President of the Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia