



European Economic  
and Social Committee

President of the Workers' Group  
The President

Brussels, 11/02/2021  
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Ms Lidija Jerkič  
President of ZSSS  
The Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia

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Dear President Jerkič,

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) recalls that defending the interests of workers and contributing to well-functioning labour markets with decent working conditions and equal societies has to happen throughout Europe by active social dialogue and collective bargaining at all levels.

We are all deeply concerned by reports from your organizations illustrating a worrying situation for Trade Unions and Social Dialogue. We have learned that the Slovenian Government and the National Assembly recently have adopted a number of decisions that will have a lasting impact on the socio-economic position of workers and employees.

Active involvement of the social partners means not only informing them, but that measures are being developed with them. After all, the EU is committed to respecting social dialogue and recognizing the active role of the social partners, employers and employees alike, in this regard.

The achievements of successful and effective social dialogue in Slovenia have so far been also visible. Social Dialogue cannot be by-passed and Social Partners must be consulted by their national governments when designing and implementing policies in a timely and constructive manner.

Over the last three decades, social dialogue in Slovenia has primarily taken place through the Economic and Social Council (ESS), a tripartite body of the social partners and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. ESS has been a venue used to discuss, negotiate and align legislative proposals, strategic documents, social agreements and other legal acts and adopt decisions of fundamental importance to society, primarily in the socioeconomic domain. Social dialogue standards have gradually developed over the years, generating a sense of mutual trust between the social partners.

However, the system on how the Economic and Social Council operates must be agreed by consensus. Unilateral changes and non-compliance with the rules adopted do not comply with the fundamental principles of social dialogue in force on the EU level.

Therefore, the EESC expresses concern about the information you sent us that the political authorities of Slovenia weaken social dialogue and undermine its very foundations.

To prevent this, also during the upcoming EU Presidency, we will express our full support for real Social Dialogue and urge the Slovenian Government to return to the thirty-year long tradition of active involvement of the social partners in labour market and social issues, to the best for your country, including its workforce.

Yours faithfully,



Oliver Röpke  
President of the Workers' Group



Christa Schweng  
EESC President