

Janez Janša
Slovenian Prime Minister

Letter sent by e-mail
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cc:

Janez Cigler Kralj
Minister of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and
Equal Opportunities
gp.mdds@gov.si

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you about an issue of great concern to the ETUC, which are the attacks on social dialogue in Slovenia.

ETUC is deeply concerned by reports from our member organisations in Slovenia which illustrate a very worrying situation in which Trade Unions and Social Dialogue are totally ignored. We have learned that in recent months, the Slovenian Government and the National Assembly have adopted a number of decisions that will have a lasting impact on the socio-economic position of workers and employees. It is extremely worrying that these decisions are in breach of the established decision-making process, which stipulates that such decisions should only be made through dialogue with the social partners.

These decisions are jeopardising the achievements of social dialogue in Slovenia, a country where social dialogue standards have gradually developed over the last three decades, generating a sense of mutual trust between the social partners.

We cannot accept that the political authorities of Slovenia deliberately attempt to exclude the social partners, suspend social agreements, avoid social dialogue, and undermine its very foundations. To address this situation, we already urged your government to stop such practices and to return to the thirty-year long tradition of active involvement of the social partners in labour market and social issues. As you may remember, at the last Tripartite Social Summit we warned that this kind of regressive behaviour totally contradicts European values and we underlined that an effective Social Dialogue is needed for a fair and sustainable recovery. We also urged the European Commission to use its authority to persuade you to stop your violation of the European rules, in line with your obligation to support and implement social dialogue in your country, confirmed recently by the Social Summit in Porto.

On 1st July your country will take over the EU Presidency from Portugal. We expect that your government will take the Porto Social Commitments seriously and will show the other Member States the importance of engaging to strengthen the social dimension of Europe, involving the social partners.

We are asking you to respond to the demands of the ETUC and its affiliates in Slovenia to guarantee and protect social dialogue and collective bargaining.

Yours sincerely,

Luca Visentini
ETUC General Secretary

