

To Mr. Giorgi Kvirikashvili
Prime Minister of Georgia
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Georgia

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Ref.: JWG/cb
Contact person : Jan Willem Goudriaan

Brussels, 21 September 2017

Dear Prime Minister,

EPSU, the European Federation of Public Service Unions, expresses its concern about the actions against the Georgian trade unions in these recent months. We have noticed the interference with the peaceful demonstration of the railway workers, the union and its leadership and the community activists 24 August 2017. Global and European trade unions have raised this with you and with global and European institutions.

We have further noticed that there has been a politically motivated campaign of political forces aligned with the government against the leadership of the Georgian trade union confederation GTUC and in particular against its President Irakli Petriashvili. We have received reports that there has been pressure on local unions, on activists, leaders and delegates to the Congress of the GTUC. This is state intervention in the work of trade unions and the internal business of the unions.

It seriously undermines the basis of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. This agreement and the relations with the EU can not function if the Georgian government does not respect the core values and principles of these agreements and the EU. Respect for social dialogue, freedom of organization and association, the right to peaceful assembly, guaranteeing the rights of workers and their unions are all part of this. These principles are further laid down in ILO Conventions, in the European Social Charter, verdicts of the European Court of Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU Treaty.

We have been informed that Mr. Irakli Petriashvili has been reelected. I am not surprised. He is a well-respected national and European trade union leader. He and the GTUC are working in partnership with the European and International Trade Union Confederations (ETUC and ITUC) and many affiliated unions and confederations.

By your actions, the Georgian government is undermining rights of workers and their unions. This should be stopped, freedom of association, of organizing and the right to peaceful demonstrations and strike respected. EPSU will continue to work with the unions in Georgia and monitor the situation.

Please do not hesitate to inform us in case you have taken steps to address the situation and re-establish dialogue with the GTUC, its unions and leadership.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Gourdiaan
EPSU General Secretary

cc. Mrs. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice-President of the European Commission
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EPSU is the European Federation of Public Service Unions, representing 8 million workers in Europe including in Georgia. We are a recognized social partner in the European Union.

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federation of the ETUC
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