

Brussels, 25 June 2021

Emil Machyna
President
OZ KOVO
Miletičova 24
815 70 Bratislava
Slovakia

Dear Emil, Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of 'IndustriAll European Trade Union, I would like to express our **full support and solidarity with the Demonstration Against the Dismantling of the Welfare State on 26 June 2021 in Bratislava**, organised by OZ KOVO.

We condemn in the strongest terms the measures taken by the Slovakian government to:

- Remove the pension age ceiling to 64 years old
- Cancel the tax and levy exoneration of the 13th and 14th month salary
- Suppress the 13th month pension income
- Suppress the subsidised lunches for children
- Abolish the extension of collective agreements
- Reduce the minimum monthly wage from €656 to €623
- Decouple the minimum wage and allowances from the arduous nature of work
- Introduce restrictions and discrimination of trade unions in the tripartite social dialogue
- Bypass trade union consultation in the event of legislative change

We share your concern that these measures represent a very serious attack on the welfare state and social rights of Slovakian citizens. It will undoubtedly increase hardship for the Slovak people and especially the most vulnerable - the workers with very low salaries, the pensioners and children - who have already been hit hard by the effects of the pandemic.

The attacks on trade unions and attempts to push them to one side are unacceptable. Social dialogue and trade union rights must be respected and strengthened. Trade unions have played a crucial role in developing and implementing responses to the COVID-19 emergency. Instead of undermining the trade unions and trying to return to strategies that belong to the past and have proved to be inefficient, the Slovak authorities should sit down with the trade unions and try to find sensible solutions to the pressing challenges of the recovery.

As the Slovakian government is preparing another package of anti-social measures which will increase taxes of workers, further weaken the pension system and step up restrictions against trade unions and their capacity to organise workers, industriAll Europe stands together with its Slovak affiliated

organisation in its fight against initiatives which will further increase inequalities and deprive workers from their trade union rights.

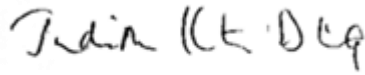
These measures conflict with the spirit of the European Social Summit organised in Porto only last month and the European Pillar of Social Rights, which was upheld and to which all EU Member States are signatories.

We fully support your legitimate protests and urge the Slovak government to respect social dialogue, collective bargaining and basic workers' rights.

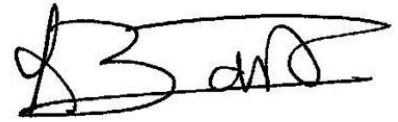
Yours in solidarity,



Luc Triangle
General Secretary



Judith Kirton-Darling
Deputy General Secretary



Isabelle Barthès
Deputy General Secretary