

English version of the text of the letter sent to the Italian union Secretaries General on 28 June 2021

For the attention of

Marco Falcinelli, Secretary General, Filctem Cgil,
Nora Garofalo, Secretary General, Femca Cisl,
Paolo Pirani, Secretary General, Uiltec

Brussels, 28 June 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Subject: Solidarity with the workers in the Italian electricity and gas sectors in their protest against the adoption of Article 177

On behalf of the 7 million workers in the manufacturing, mining and energy sectors in Europe, we are writing to express our solidarity and support for your national mobilisation on 30 June 2021 to protest against the Italian government's adoption of Article 177 which will put at risk 145,000 jobs in the electricity and gas distribution services.

Article 177 obliges concessionary companies to outsource 80% of all activities covered by the concession, even in cases where the activities are carried out directly by the companies' own personnel. This will deconstruct an essential and fundamental service for the entire country.

The outsourcing process would have high economic and social costs, putting at risk approximately 145,000 quality and highly skilled jobs.

At a time when the European electricity and gas sectors are confronted with unprecedented challenges posed by the disastrous health and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the twin energy and digital transition, the plan of the Italian government to pass Article 177 in its current form is incomprehensible to Italian and European workers.

It goes directly against the principles of a Just Transition that the European Union has written in the heart of its Green Deal agenda. IndustriAll Europe and its affiliates demand that the Italian government and Parliament enter into a constructive social dialogue with the trade unions and revise Article 177 in order to safeguard the qualified and secure jobs at stake as a result of the restructuring process. The Italian government has the responsibility to ensure that no worker is left behind!

On 30 June, industriAll Europe and its affiliated organisations and workers across Europe will be in solidarity with our Italian comrades in their fight against the incomprehensive destruction of quality jobs and for a Just Transition of the workers in the Italian and European electricity and gas sectors.

Yours sincerely,

Luc Triangle
General Secretary
IndustriAll European Trade Union