

Workers' delegation statement on Ukraine

Thank you Chair, for giving TUAC and IndustriALL the opportunity to comment on the important work of the OECD Steel Committee. IndustriALL represents the voices of 50 million workers in 140 countries, including many steelworkers in all OECD countries and beyond. Let me start by mentioning that IndustriALL has affiliates both in Russia and in Ukraine, and that from our point of view, it is important to remember that the war was started on February 24 2022 by the Putin administration, and it remains the responsibility of the Putin Administration.

For the international labor movement, this war is especially distressing as many Ukrainians have Russian relatives and vice versa. For us, internationalism and peace are always paramount. Now, peace, international democracy, fair trade and global supply chains, and the very well-being of workers and citizens in Ukraine, but also in Russia, Belarus and beyond, are under threat.

IndustriALL Global Union, together with its sister organization industriAll European Trade Union, released joint statements on 24th and 28 February, demanding a halt to the Russian invasion. Furthermore, the TUAC promptly suspended the associate membership of its Russian affiliate, the FNPR, on 1 March following their statement in support of the invasion of Ukraine. Therefore, representatives of the FNPR are no longer invited to attend the OECD Steel Committee, nor any other OECD committee.

In addition, IndustriALL Global Union is in constant dialogue with its Ukrainian affiliates in order to help provide financial and organizational support during this dark period in Europe.

TUAC, IndustriALL Global Union and industriAll European Trade Union wish to make it clear that:

- We jointly condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a sovereign nation, and ask for the immediate withdrawal of Russian armed forces from the country.
- We do not accept war as solution to solve differences between states.
- We do not accept any kind of violence that pits the workers of one country against the workers of another country.
- We condemn the repression faced by those in Russia and Belarus bravely speaking out and protesting for peace.
- As part of the global peace movement, we will continue to do our utmost to end this war as soon as possible and to help our Ukrainian affiliates, and the workers they represent, to come back to their homes and workplaces as soon as possible.
- We call for peace for the sake of men, women and children in Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and beyond.

For the TUAC, IndustriALL Global Union, and industriAll European Trade Union, peace and democracy are fundamental and universal values. Since 24 February, the Russian military has killed hundreds of civilians, and millions of Ukrainians - mostly women and children - have fled the country, trying to escape this unnecessary and unprovoked war. At the same time, thousands of peace-loving Russian protesters have been arrested with censorship and denial of freedom of speech becoming worse by the day in Russia.

Therefore, TUAC, IndustriALL Global Union and industriAll European Trade Union jointly express their full solidarity with workers and the people in Ukraine, and we call on affiliates, particularly in neighboring countries, to give support by assisting the thousands of refugees fleeing the violence in Ukraine.

29th March 2022