

Ukraine: International concerns over changes to labour law

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Following the introduction of martial law in Ukraine, a weakening of labour law has been approved by the country's president. Last month two disappointing laws were ratified:

1. Collective agreements signed in companies with fewer than 250 workers will be cancelled so that these workers, who make up almost three quarters of the Ukrainian workforce, will need to negotiate individually with their employers.
2. Zero-hour contracts will be allowed for up to 10% of the workforce in each company. With such contracts, workers will not be guaranteed employment, and they will not be allowed to work for other employers either.

The ILO has expressed concerns about this development. Both the ITUC and the ETUC have called for the bills to be dropped. IndustriAll Europe and IndustriAll Global have sent a joint letter to the top EU leaders in which they praise the decision to grant Ukraine candidate status, but at the same time criticise the new laws which are contrary to EU values.

Edited by industriAll Europe