



For the attention of:
Maroš Šefčovič – European Commission Executive Vice President for the
European Green Deal

Margarethe Vestager – European Commission Executive Vice President for
Competition

Elisa Ferreira, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

Kadri Simson, European Commissioner for Energy

Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

[Letter sent by e-mail]

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**Subject: Urgent call for support in implementing a Just Transition for the workers
in Konin, Wielkopolska (Poland)**

Dear Executive Vice-President,
Dear Commissioners,

We would like to draw your urgent attention to the volatile situation of the Just Transition project for the workers of ZE PAK, in Konin, Wielkopolska, Poland. Over recent months and years, the trade unions and the management of ZE PAK have done an incredible job in trying to manage the change for ZE PAK's employees. In good faith and social dialogue, they have negotiated the so-called 'A Job after Coal Programme', a programme aimed at safeguarding jobs and incomes, re- and upskilling employees and offering social protection schemes for the remaining workers. This programme has received much attention during recent meetings of the Just Transition Platform and has also been lauded as a best practice by the World Bank.

ETUC and industriAll Europe, representing the European trade unions' movement, strongly support the efforts by the social partners in Konin as this is one of the best examples of putting Just Transition into practice in Europe. Together, we call for your urgent support and commitment to make their transition fair and smooth!

It is of particular concern to the ETUC and industriAll Europe that the programme risks failure due to uncertainty of the pending decision regarding the urgently needed funding: Just Transition Fund and state aid to allow for social protection programmes to be put into place. After the Social Agreement for workers in the lignite and energy sectors was signed in December 2022, the Polish Parliament adopted the Act on Social Protection for Employees in the Electricity Sector and the Lignite Mining Industry in the Summer of 2023. The social partners in ZE PAK are now desperately awaiting the formal notification of the European Commission by the Polish Government and hopefully the swift processing of the state aid notification.


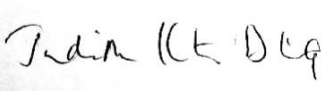
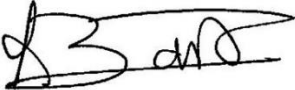
This aid will come too late for the 3,000 workers who have lost their jobs in Konin since 2018, but it will secure the jobs and livelihoods of thousands of employees.

The social partners in ZE PAK are at a crucial moment in time and the swift processing of the state aid notification is now urgently needed to protect their programme. The ETUC and industriAll Europe would like to underline that the failure of the project would jeopardise the trust of many workers in ZE PAK, both in Poland and throughout Europe. The laudable project of the social partners in ZE PAK should be swiftly and strongly supported to enable the Just Transition and to promote this practice in Poland and the rest of Europe.

The trade unions and employers of ZE PAK, with the support of ETUC and industriAll Europe, would therefore like to request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to present their concerns and to find rapid and effective solutions for the workers.

We thank you in advance for your kind and urgent response.

Yours sincerely,

 <p>Esther Lynch General Secretary, ETUC</p>	 <p>Judith Kirton Darling Joint Acting General Secretary, industriAll European Trade Union</p>
	 <p>Isabelle Barthès Joint Acting General Secretary, industriAll European Trade Union</p>