

Brussels and Geneva, 26 July 2024

to: Roman Ďurčo, OS KOVO President

IndustriAll Europe and IndustriALL Global Union in solidarity with OS KOVO and Liberty Ostrava workers

Dear Roman,

We are writing on behalf of [industriAll Europe](#) and [IndustriALL Global Union](#), both representing millions of industrial workers across the world, to express our unwavering solidarity with OS KOVO comrades and Liberty Ostrava workers and families in their courageous fight for preserving their jobs and steel plant.

On 23 July, Liberty Steel's announcement of intended mass layoffs, of the closure of the coke ovens and the idling of the iron and steelmaking facilities at Liberty Ostrava sent massive shocking waves amongst steel workers and their unions across the world. Such a decision is putting the livelihood of up to 2,600 workers, their families and the entire local community in jeopardy. It also threatens the stability and future of the steel industry in the Czech Republic and more broadly, in Europe.

The shocking news came after Liberty Steel stopped paying Liberty Ostrava workers' wages in May already due to insolvency proceedings. The protection scheme provided by the Czech Labour office to take over wage payment will however cease on 31 July unless decision is made to extend the period. If no extension happens, those workers will lose their wage. Moreover, the payment of their notice period and redundancy package is even called into question.

IndustriAll Europe and IndustriALL Global Union strictly condemn irresponsible decisions which could irreversibly damage Europe's strategic steel production capacities and leave thousands of workers and their families behind! We refuse that workers pay the brunt of mismanagement and lack of effective support by public authorities! More than ever, we demand public action to safeguard Europe's strategic steel assets from collapse and urge policymakers to commit to a genuine [Steel Action plan](#).

We echo the sentiments expressed by the Liberty Ostrava workers and their unions in the statement of protest they issued. IndustriALL Global Union and industriAll Europe strongly support OS KOVO in its call on Liberty Steel's creditors, the Czech government and the European Commission to take their responsibilities without further ado.

IndustriAll Europe and IndustriALL Global Union stand in unity by OS KOVO and Liberty Ostrava steelworkers' side and will continue to provide you all the support we can.

In solidarity,

Atle Høie
General Secretary
IndustriALL Global Union



Judith Kirton-Darling
General Secretary
industriAll European Trade Union

