



Geneva and Brussels, 15 July 2026

His Excellency Mr Volodymyr Zelenskyy

President of Ukraine

11 Bankova St., Kyiv, 01220, Ukraine

Mr Ruslan Kravchenko

Prosecutor General of Ukraine

13/15 Riznytska St., Kyiv, 01011, Ukraine

Sent by email to: Letter@apu.gov.ua; office@gp.gov.ua

Detention of Mr Yarema Zhuhaievych, Chairman of the Trade Union of Aircraft and Machine Building Workers of Ukraine

Mr President,

Mr Prosecutor General,

We are writing this letter on behalf of IndustriALL Global Union and industriAll European Trade Union, both with affiliated unions that represent workers in mining, energy, and manufacturing industries throughout the world, among them the Trade Union of Aircraft and Machine Building Workers of Ukraine (TUAMBWU), to express our serious concern about the criminal case against its Chairman, Mr Yarema Zhuhaievych, held in pre-trial detention since 1 May 2026.

Mr Zhuhaievych was arrested as Chairman of the Supervisory Board of PJSC Ukrproftur, to which the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine delegated him to represent the shareholder. The decisions at issue were taken collectively by the competent bodies of the company, within their powers under the Law of Ukraine on Joint-Stock Companies and the company's charter, and he was legally obliged to sign them. He is, in other words, being prosecuted for doing what his mandate and the law required of him. Meanwhile bail has been set far beyond his personal means, so that after more than two months he remains in custody.

Property disputes belong before the civil and commercial courts, and the Supreme Arbitration Court of Ukraine confirmed the lawfulness of Ukrproftur's establishment in a final judgment as long ago as January 1997. Turning such a dispute into a criminal case against an individual trade union leader is a different matter. The ILO Committee on Freedom of Association has said many times that detaining trade union leaders over their legitimate activities is a severe violation of freedom of association, as enshrined in Conventions 87 and 98 both ratified by Ukraine, and may have a deterrent effect on trade union activities as a whole.

Our organizations have stood with Ukraine and its people since the first day of Russia's invasion, and our Ukrainian affiliates have our unwavering support. We have also voiced serious concerns regarding the ongoing labour law reform process and the lack of genuine consultation with the unions.

Ukraine is applying for membership of the European Union, and respect for judicial independence, due process and the presumption of innocence sits at the core of Cluster 1 of the accession negotiations.

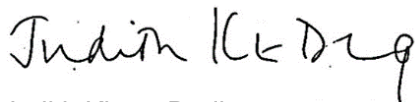
A country cannot progress towards European integration while prosecuting trade union leaders for carrying out their mandate.

We therefore call on you to:

- release Mr Zhuhaievych from pre-trial detention;
- drop the charges arising from his representative functions and from decisions lawfully adopted by collegial bodies;
- ensure the property dispute is dealt with where it belongs, in civil and commercial proceedings and comply with the principles of legality, proportionality and international human rights obligations;
- guarantee trade union independence, freedom of association and effective social dialogue, in line with Conventions 87 and 98.

We would appreciate being informed of the steps taken, and we are available for any further information.

Sincerely,



Judith Kirton-Darling
General secretary
IndustriAll European Trade Union



Atle Høie
General secretary
IndustriALL Global Union