



Конфедерација на слободни синдикати на Македонија
Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Macedonia

КОНФ
СИНД

Бр. 05-23/2

22.01.

Скопје 18.02.

To
ETUC Regional Project Office Belgrade

Subject: Information about the Public protest held by KSS

Dear colleagues,

Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Macedonia has been trying last several months to establish a legitimate and functional social dialogue with the competent representatives of the ministries and state bodies in order to discuss and solve certain problems, affecting public sector employees, as well as the establishment of legitimate requests for improvement of the socio-economic status of our members and employees in state and public institutions.

Our legitimate demands are the following: the functioning of the social dialogue, starting negotiations for amendments to the General Collective Agreement for the public sector for increasing the rights of workers in the public sector, increasing the salaries of all employees in the public administration without discrimination; harmonization of wages according to the minimum wage at national level, as well as adjustment of wages in relation to the actual changes in the cost of living on an annual basis, which is a legal obligation; increase the payment for past work; improving the rights to work, providing secure jobs, respecting the legal provisions on social dialogue, respecting the already signed collective agreements, without mobbing in the workplace, etc.

In the framework of these attempts in the past several months, unfortunately we did not find goodwill to talk about our socio-economic requirements related to employment. Instead, there are daily pressures on our members, dismissal of trade union representatives, intimidation and manipulation of membership, psychological harassment (mobbing), as well as intrusion in trade union organizations with the formation of "parallel trade unions".

On Conference of KSS, the highest body between two Congresses, on November 16, 2017 there was adopted an Initiative for holding a public protest, which obliged all branch trade unions to convene their highest organs and bodies and to make an assessment and to make a decision for holding public protest. After the convening of their highest organs and bodies and on the request of our membership for taking further measures, the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Macedonia adopted a Decision for holding a Public Warning Protest with a date of its holding on 17.01.2018 scheduled for 5 minutes to 12.00 in front of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. In our requests that were submitted to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, a meeting with Government officials was requested.

For the first time KSS received an invitation from the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for a working meeting on January 16, 2018. The meeting was held and on the meeting KSS's



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given a promise by the Government representatives that the requests would be seriously considered and was demanded from us for patience in order additional consultations and calculations about our requests to be made. Also, we have provided them written evidence of pressure on membership by certain state representatives, so we have been promised that they will try to stop the pressures on the trade union movement in the Republic of Macedonia.

KSS remained in line with its demands because nothing was solved after the working meeting, but only a promise was given for further cooperation.

KSS held the Public warning protest on 17.01.2018, on which there was a great number of our membership of all branch trade unions affiliated with the KSS who attended the protest and expressed their dissatisfaction and pointed out their demands through this Public protest. The public protest took place peacefully from the "Gate Macedonia", through the Ministry of Justice, and to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, where the President symbolically addressed to our membership on 5 minutes to 12 o'clock. The President of KSS, Blagoja Ralovski said: "Today we have gathered here together to ask social justice, to ask for our rights, to stop violating the laws, for a better life, for dignified income, for secure jobs, and to stop the great pressures on trade union movement in Macedonia. We will continue on the path that we have started to walk as Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Macedonia, so through democratic way, through honest and legitimate social dialogue and partnership, we can have decent income and a decent life for all workers in the country."

After the Public Protest, we expect that the meetings with the Government representatives from the relevant ministries will start in terms of considering our requests and finding common solutions, as promised on their behalf the day before the protest, otherwise the KSS will decide for the further trade union steps that will be taken and radicalized.

In attach you can find photo and video materials from the Public protest held on 17.01.2018

Kind regards,

Confederation of free trade
unions of Macedonia
President
Blagoja Ralovski

