

Serbia: trade unions strike against labour law reforms

(23 January 2014) Trade unions across Serbia will be taking part in a one-hour strike today in protest against government proposals for major changes to labour legislation.

The two main confederations along with several independent unions are supporting the action to demonstrate opposition to amendments that will have serious impact on workers' rights, including changes to severance pay, compensation for sick leave and paid leave.

The Serbian trade unions are also very concerned about changes to the law that hinder the position of trade union representatives and the right to collective bargaining and believes that it is wrong that salaries and working hours will no longer have to be stipulated in employment contracts.

The unions argue that the Serbian government is more interested in changing employment legislation to suit international investors rather than looking to create the right conditions for decent jobs.

There is also evidence that the European Commission supports these kinds of reforms. Serbia is a candidate country to join the EU and in its 2013 Progress Report on Serbia (a Staff Working Document published in October) the Commission claims that: "There are a number of restrictions related to severance payments, duration of fixed-term employment, industry-wide collective agreements, termination of employment, payroll calculation and compensations which are obstacles to job creation and reduce labour flexibility."

In view of the European Commission's recent record, particularly as a member of the Troika, in intervening in Member States' national industrial relations systems and attacking collective bargaining arrangements, it is crucial that as European trade unions we express our solidarity for our Serbian colleagues and our opposition to the kinds of labour market reforms that are all about increasing precarious employment and flexibility only on the employers' terms.

We hope that the one-hour warning strike on 23rd January, called by the two main trade union confederations and supported by many independent unions, will have the widest support possible and that this and any planned protest actions will lead the government to revise its proposals.

EPSU solidarity letter

- [EPSU Solidarity Letter](#)

Letter by Trade Union of Employees in Health and Social Security of Serbia

are reduced.

We don't agree to slave-holding relationship and employer's self-will. We don't allow that workers are treated like goods. We don't accept legalization of an easy dismissal.

We want to work and live decently of this work.

We want the highest standards and positive trends of European legislation and ILO Directives dealing with workers' rights to be integrated into our Labour Law.



Handwritten signature



СИНДИКАТ ЗАПОСЛЕНИХ У ЗДРАВСТВУ И СОЦИЈАЛНОЈ ЗАШТИТИ СРБИЈЕ

11000 - Београд, Дечанска 14, Тел/факс 323-3348 и 3239015, текући рачун 355-1018406-22 е-маил zdravko@sindikat.rs www.zdravko.org.rs

Trade Union of Employees in Health and Social Security of Serbia is dissatisfied with the text of the Draft of the Law on the Amendments to the Labour Law and offered solutions, as well as the fact that the text of the Law was created without the participation of representative trade unions.

Proposed Law deepens inter-generational gap offering easier dismissals in its solutions, without stating reasons and for the sake of easier employment which we doubt.

We are dissatisfied because of the lack of social dialogue, disrespect of legal procedures in the creation of the Law. We are dissatisfied because of selective justice, attitude of certain ministers towards the unions, as well as the actions against the employees' interests.

We are dissatisfied because of the disrespect of positions and demands of Serbian workers and that's the reason why we announced an hour long WARNING STRIKE together with the Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions of Serbia and TUC "Nezavisnost".

We use this WARNING STRIKE to tell Serbian Government:

Withdraw the Draft of the Law on Amendments to the Labour Law from the procedure because we don't agree with the proposed solutions, as well as the fact that the text of the Law has been created without the participation of representative trade unions. We don't accept that rights of current and future workers are reduced because labour rights don't generate the crisis, destruction of economy, closure of enterprises and tragic privatisation;

Rights of workers don't decrease businessman's ability to manage business nor their profit.....

On the contrary, workers are those who create profit, not the employers or politicians;

We don't consent to the fact that the money which we earn is poured into profits and our salaries, contributions and some other income, which are already very low and insufficient,

- [Log in](#) to post comments
- [Printer-friendly version](#)

Policies

[Solidarity](#)

[Union Rights](#)