



To Ukrainian Health Workers' Union, Viktoria Kowal, Chairwoman

Ref.: JWG/cb

Contact person : Jan Willem Goudriaan

Brussels, 18 September 2017

Message of solidarity to the Ukrainian Health Workers' Union for their national demonstration on 19 September 2017

Dear Viktoria, dear colleagues of the Ukrainian Health Workers' Union,

EPSU sends solidarity greetings to the Health Workers' Union of Ukraine (HWUU) and the many other trade union organisations that will be taking part in the HWUU's national demonstration on 19 September.

We hope that this widely supported protest will help put pressure on the Ukrainian government and ensure that it responds to union demands to change its health reform proposals and open up a proper process of social dialogue with the HWUU.

EPSU fully supports the HWUU in its lobbying, negotiating and campaigning with the aim not just to protect the legitimate rights and interests of healthcare workers but also all citizens using healthcare services.

We would stress in particular the demand that the government should act to resolve the collective [labour dispute](#) with the HWUU. This was registered last year but the government has failed to act in response to the union's key demand to pay wage arrears, increase healthcare workers' wages and apply the wage rates of the single tariff system according to the appropriate skill levels.

EPSU supports the HWUU's other main demands which include:

- Increase healthcare subsidy for 2017 not less than by 3.9 billion UAH and more generally speaking to arrive at a sustainable level of funding for quality, well-staffed health services
- Implementation of the healthcare reform in compliance with the Constitution of Ukraine and Ukrainian legislation taking into account the position of the Union and the views of the healthcare community
- Payment of job prestige allowance to healthcare workers of public and municipal healthcare institutions
- implementation the court's decision to cancel decree 442 relating to the reorganisation of the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service of Ukraine;
- cancellation of decree 1024 on reduction of number of beds in hospitals; and
- provision of safe staffing levels.

These and a number of other issues were already raised and requested at the Health Care Reform Seminar in the Ukraine organised on 15 and 16 May 2017 in Kyiv in which EPSU participated (<http://www.epsu.org/article/report-health-care-reform-seminar-ukraine-1516-may-2017-kyiv>).

EPSU Secretariat 40 rue Joseph II, box 5 - 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Phone: +32 2 250 10 80 Fax: +32 2 520 10 99 Mail: epsu@epsu.org www.epsu.org

European
Federation
of Public
Service
Unions

Federación
Sindical
Europea
de Servicios
Públicos

Fédération
Syndicale
Européenne
des Services
Publics

Europeiska
Federationen
för Offentlig-
anställdas
Förbund

Europäischer
Gewerkschafts-
verband für den
Öffentlichen
Dienst

Европейская
Федерация
Профсоюзов
Ощественного
Оьслуживания



EPSU is a member
federation of the ETUC
and represents
PSI in Europe

EPSU wants to underline its support for the HWUU's position on the proposed health reforms. Above all EPSU and the HWUU want to see a system that guarantees equal and equitable access for all citizens to high quality healthcare across the whole country. This should be based on adequate public funding rather than reliance on a privately based social insurance system. There is clear evidence from across the world that a predominantly private system will be more costly and less effective than publicly-funded arrangements that ensure access and affordability.

EPSU hopes the national demonstration is a success and leads to the HWUU role as a social partner being properly recognised not just in relation to the labour dispute but also in regards to its right to be formally consulted over the health reform proposals that threaten to have such a negative impact on Ukrainian citizens.

We wish you a successful mobilisation and struggle!



Jan Willem Gourdiaan
EPSU General Secretary