



**INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
ITUC PAN-EUROPEAN REGIONAL COUNCIL
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION**

Ayuba Wabba

President
Président
Präsident
Presidente

Mr. Florin-Vasile CÎȚU

Prime Minister
Republic of Romania

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
Secrétaire générale
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Secretaria General

HTUR/ZM

17 March 2021

ITUC and ETUC denounce Romania's austerity measures, denial of social dialogue and threats of anti-union discrimination.

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing on behalf of the ITUC and the ETUC to denounce the adoption of austerity measures by your government in its 2021 budget without engaging in social dialogue and acts of anti-union discrimination issued by yourself on 26 February and 3 March 2021.

We are reliably informed by our four affiliates in your country that your government - through emergency decrees and without consultations with the National Tripartite Council for Social Dialogue - adopted the 2021 State Budget which includes cuts to the health and education sectors in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, we note the anti-union statements issued by yourself aiming to interfere with the internal democracy of trade unions and the threat to change by decree the collection of trade union dues by amending article 24 (1), Law 62/2011 and to impose further restrictions to the right to strike and protest.

We also note the recent justified protest actions undertaken by workers in your country against your government's austerity measures that seek to keep the minimum wage among the lowest in the EU. Over a decade now, sectoral and national collective bargaining is still suspended and bargaining at company level is severely obstructed. The absence of collective bargaining at the sectoral level over all these years has pushed all sectoral wages to the legal minimum, a level that does not allow workers a decent living wage. The anti-social measures adopted by your government are set to increase poverty and social inequality and are designed to keep Romania as a source of cheap labour for the EU, leading to social dumping in Europe and poverty wages and a brain drain in Romania.

Mr Prime Minister, Romania is a member of the EU and a member of the international Labour Organization (ILO), and so is bound to respect domestic law, EU legislation and international labour law by ensuring the full respect for workers' rights and freedoms, particularly, the Revised European Social Charter, and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Furthermore, Romania must respect article 3 of the ILO Convention on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, 1948 (No.87) which provides that "Workers' and employers' organisations shall have the right to draw up their constitutions and rules, to elect their representatives in full freedom, to organise their administration and activities and to formulate their programmes. The public authorities shall refrain from any interference which would restrict this right or impede the lawful exercise thereof."

Following the continued breakdown of social dialogue and workers' rights in the country, the ITUC has earlier expressed its full support to Romanian unions by joining a *formal complaint* to the ILO on 16 July 2018 about persistent violations of the convention on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98) by Romania.

We implore your government to stop its interference in trade union administration, including the election of office bearers, their term of office, collection of trade union dues and their rights to engage in protest actions. Your government must embrace the principles of social dialogue and engage with its social partners to address the issues raised by protestors and their representatives. Acts of retaliation contemplated by your government against the trade union movement will be counterproductive and not resolve the country's socio-economic problems.

The ITUC and the ETUC shall continue to monitor any developments in this matter and will not hesitate to take further action, as required.

We look forward to your reply.



Sharan Burrow
General Secretary
ITUC



Luca Visentini
General Secretary
ETUC and PERC

cc:

Mr. Klaus IOHANNIS, President of Romania

Mr. Ludovic ORBAN President of the Chamber of Deputies, Romanian Parliament

Ms. Anca Dana DRAGU, President of the Senate, Romanian Parliament

Ms. Raluca TURCAN, Minister of Labor and Social Protection

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