



Brussels and Geneva  
11 August 2016

President Petro Poroshenko  
Presidential Administration of Ukraine  
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Kyiv, UKRAINE 01220  
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*Cc Head of Administration of  
President of Ukraine  
Mr. Boris Lozhkin  
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and fax + 380 44 255-61-61*

### **ITUC and IndustriALL Global Union Call on the Government of Ukraine to Intervene and Protect Human Rights of Ukrainian Coal Miners**

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing this letter to you on behalf of [International Trade Union Confederation \(ITUC\)](#), representing 180 million workers in 162 countries, and [IndustriALL Global Union](#), representing more than fifty million workers in the whole manufacturing supply chain in 140 countries, to call on immediate action about desperate situation faced by workers in the coal-mining industry of Ukraine.

We have been informed by our member organizations – Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU) and Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine (NPGU) – that in the coal mining industry of Ukraine thousands of workers do not receive their wages in time. As of 1 July 2016, the total amount of wage arrears grew up to 935 million Grivnas (37.6 million USD). Meanwhile the level of injuries at coal mining workplaces increased by 40 per cent and the rate of death injuries rose by 2.5 times.

Non-payment of wages and depreciation of national currency accompanied by sharp increases in basic utility tariffs bring millions of Ukrainian citizens to poverty and despair. Lack of a meaningful development strategy in the coal mining sector and absence or alternative employment opportunities and job-creation policies in the mining regions would lead to social instability. Numerous protest actions already took

place in different parts of Ukraine. Roads were blocked, several miners had to turn to desperate actions including hunger strike, and even a self-immolation attempt. However even these desperate acts so far have been ignored by officials of the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry of Ukraine.

On behalf of the ITUC and IndustriALL Global Union, we express our distress about the situation in the sector and urge You, as Guarantor of the Constitution of Ukraine, to intervene and protect human rights of Ukrainian coal miners and their families, and thus prevent escalation of protests into further acts of despair and tragedies.


Your Government must re-launch social dialog with unions on the economic situation in the sector, on building employment policies, on regional development, on workers' rights as well as on necessary measures to fight with corruption that cripple opportunities for social and economic development of the country.

We will continue closely monitoring the situation in your country, in liaison with our affiliates in the country and will be ready to use any means that are at our disposal to inform the international and European community and to initiate any appropriate procedures and solidarity actions to make sure that rights and interests of workers of Ukraine are respected.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Burrow'.

Sharan Burrow  
General Secretary, ITUC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Raina'.

Jyrki Raina  
General Secretary, IndustriALL Global  
Union