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Mr Viktor Orbán
Prime Minister of Hungary
1357 Budapest
Hungary

By e-mail: titkarsag@me.gov.hu

PERC/AL/pw

Brussels, 24 March 2016

Dear Prime Minister,

Reforms of education system

We have received information from our affiliate Hungarian Trade Union Confederation (MASZSZ) about growing discontent of unions and Hungarian people in relation to the developments in the national education system.

On behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation that represents 180 million workers in 162 countries and territories I would like to express my deep concerns about your government's reforms in the field of education, which have been implemented without proper consultations and social dialogue with trade unions. These reforms led to over-centralisation of the curriculum and its management, leading to malfunctioning of the system and unbearable pressure on teachers and pupils.

The teachers' unions, supported by all national trade union centres, associations of parents and civil organisations, took part in public protests on this issue on two occasions during the past month. Tens of thousands of people took part in the two demonstrations were held in front of the Parliament. However, despite this clear collective message, your government continues to refuse to engage in a dialogue with unions to elaborate appropriate amendments to the system.

The absence of institutionalised social dialogue over organisation of work and education process would inevitably lead to other, spontaneous, expressions of concern from the different stakeholders in the education system, given the seriousness of the issues at stake.

I therefor call upon you to intervene, and to instruct the respective government officials to engage in a dialogue with the teachers' unions so that the deficiencies of the present, malfunctioning, education system are corrected and that proper solutions to curriculum and its management that would be supported by all the stakeholders are found.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B.', written in a cursive style.

General Secretary

cc: MASZSZ