



Estonian Parliament  
Social Commission  
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ESTONIA

**Sent by post and by email to chair of Social Commission  
Mai Treial, [maj.treial@riigikogu.ee](mailto:maj.treial@riigikogu.ee)  
and copied to secretary [aimi.kaldre@riigikogu.ee](mailto:aimi.kaldre@riigikogu.ee)**

REF.:CFP/NS/ea/solidarity  
Contact person: Nadja Salson (tel.: 32 2 250 10 88)

8 November 2004

**Re: Collective Labour Dispute Resolution Act: the right to strike for state and municipal workers**

Dear honorary Member of the Social Commission,

The **European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU)** represents more than 8 million public service workers in Europe and is a recognised social partner at EU level. EPSU shares the strong concerns raised by its affiliated union, ROTAL, regarding the delay by your Commission in approving the amendments to Estonia's Collective Labour Dispute Resolution Act.

These amendments, which we understand were adopted in first reading almost one year ago, will extend the fundamental human right to strike to state and municipal workers. The right to strike, alongside the right to collective bargaining and to join a trade union is enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental rights that has now been incorporated in the draft EU Constitution.

Further, as part of the European Social model, the EU Treaty provides for the promotion of social dialogue with no distinction between the public and private sectors. It is the view of EPSU that all matters relating to labour rights must take due account of the views of the trade unions.

As called for by ROTAL, EPSU urges you to approve the changes to the Collective Labour Dispute Act with no further delay so that it can be transmitted to Parliament for a successful completion of the second reading stage.

I trust you will take this demand into account when you discuss further the amended Act second week of November.

Yours sincerely

**Carola Fischbach-Pyttel**  
**EPSU General Secretary**

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