



Mr. Bamir TOPI  
President of Albania  
Tirana  
ALBANIA

Fax: + 3554257476 / +3554236925

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Contact person: Jan Willem Goudriaan

3 August 2007

Subject: **KSSH Headquarter offices**

Dear President Topi,

On behalf of the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU), a European trade union federation representing 8 million women and men working in public services in Europe, I write to express our deepest concern about the recent developments in Albania.

We have been informed that the Confederation of Trade Unions of Albania (KSSH) headquarter offices in Tirana have been broken into by the national police forces. The police have reportedly destroyed a lot of documentation and equipment and are now refusing the KSSH staff access to their offices.

EPSU vigorously condemns any interference in the legitimate activities of a trade union organization. The KSSH must be allowed to carry out its legitimate work on behalf of Albanian workers in conditions of full freedom of association and respect for international labour standards.

EPSU urges your government to uphold its obligations under international instruments, including ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize and ILO Convention 98 on the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining, both of which Albania has ratified.

We also refer to the Social Charter of the Council of Europe and the Charter on Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Albania aspires to become a member of the EU, or at least have close relations with the EU through cooperation agreements and action programmes. These agreements also ask your government to respect fundamental rights.

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FÖRBUND

EUROPÄISCHER  
GEWERKSCHAFTS-  
VERBAND FÜR DEN  
ÖFFENTLICHEN  
DIENST



We urge you to investigate the police behaviour and respect the activities of the Albanian trade unions.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Willem Goudriaan  
EPSU Deputy General Secretary

Cc: Sali BERISHA, Prime Minister  
Ministry of European Integration  
Olli REHN, European Commissioner  
Doris PACK, European Parliament Committee on South East Europe

***"EPSU is the European Federation of Public Service Unions. It is the largest federation of the ETUC and comprises 8 million public service workers from over 200 Public Service Unions in 36 countries. We organise workers in health and social services, local and national administration, energy, water and waste. We are the recognised European social partner organisation in each of these sectors. EPSU is committed to building a European Union that promotes democratically accountable public services of the highest quality, within and beyond its borders. For more information on EPSU and our work please go to: [www.epsu.org](http://www.epsu.org)"***