

EU-Ukraine summit : trade unions demand more respect for their issues



Joint Statement from Europe's public service trade unions on the occasion of the 20th Ukraine-EU summit

The 20th Ukraine-EU Summit will take place in Brussels on 9 July 2018. EPSU, the European Federation of Public Service Unions that includes unions in the EU, Ukraine and the rest of Europe, requests the Ukrainian Government, the European Commission and the EU Council to take into consideration the following points.

- 1) Workers, our families and communities expect that cooperation between the EU and Ukraine delivers social and economic progress. The Association Agreement has to improve the working and living conditions of people. Therefore the Ukrainian Government must involve the unions in developing national plans for economic and social development. Addressing the consequences of climate change and digitalisation requires consulting and negotiating with trade unions to ensure that transitions will be just and do not leave workers and communities behind.
- 2) Strengthening collective bargaining, especially at the sectoral level, and social dialogue are key to achieving better pay, working conditions and quality jobs. Respecting the role of the trade unions in line with European and global fundamental rights and labour standards set out in for example the ILO Conventions, the European Social Charter, and the European Pillar of Social Rights needs to be a priority of the Ukrainian Government and the European Commission. The Ukrainian authorities should

(9 July 2018) The 20th Ukraine-EU Summit takes place in Brussels today (9 July) to discuss the next steps in implement the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement that has been in effect since 2016. The European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU), that includes unions in the EU, Ukraine and the rest of Europe, has sent a letter to the European Commission, the European Council and the Ukrainian government with a series of demands criticising the agreement.

Unions demand that the Association Agreement has to improve the working and living conditions of people and argue that this will be very difficult unless trade unions are involved in the process which isn't the case at the moment. Today we see attacks on trade union organisations and violations of International Labour Organisation and EU standards.

EPSU maintains that public services should be kept in public hands and that the Ukrainian Government should not promote the privatisation of health and social care, municipal and other public services. The European Commission and the European and international financial institutions should stop putting pressure on Ukraine to privatise services. Similarly, EPSU argues that public-private partnerships (PPPs) should be avoided as they are very risky for public finance, as well as for service users and for workers as they put pressure on quality of services, jobs and working conditions.

Last but not least, EPSU also warns that the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Ukraine lacks the necessary tools to ensure a fairer redistribution of the wealth that is generated from trade. Progressive taxation and corporate taxation should be part and parcel of a trade regime and included in future discussions between the EU and the Ukraine.

[On the website of the FPU \(Ukrainian confederation\)](#)

 [Ukraine](#)

- [Log in](#) to post comments
- [EPSU Statement 20th Ukraine-EU Summit June 2018](#)
- [EPSU and Ukrainian members letter regarding trade union rights](#)
- [EPSU Statement 20th Ukraine-EU Summit June 2018 - UA](#)
- [EPSU Statement 20th Ukraine-EU Summit June 2018 - RU](#)
- [Printer-friendly version](#)

Policies

[PPPs](#)

[Privatisation](#)

[Trade](#)

[Union Rights](#)

Other organizations

[EC](#)