

Members of the Delegation to the EU-UK
Parliamentary Partnership Assembly

cc.: the EP EMPL committee and the EP
INTA committee

Ref.: JWG/gg

Brussels, 23 January 2023

Dear MEPs,

As you know the UK government is currently discussing a new bill in the Parliament related to minimum services levels in strikes in certain public services.

Instead of making serious attempts to negotiate settlements to the current disputes about pay and other conditions in health services, central government, railways and education, the Conservative government is rushing through a new law that will impose minimum service levels in key sectors, including the possibility that strikers will be sacked if they fail to comply with notices to work.

The UK government claims that it is bringing the UK into line with strike law in other countries within the European Union.

The right to strike is a fundamental right enshrined in many constitutions and primary laws, this is not the case in the UK. The British government claims that minimum services imposed unilaterally will bring them closer to other European countries, even the ILO Director has rejected the claim.

As members of the EU-UK parliamentary delegation we are asking you to look at workers' rights, and especially the possibility that any trade agreement with the European Union should ensure protection of the right of association and right to strike.

We are asking you to publicly come out in support of the right to strike and against the UK government unilaterally imposing minimum services levels. Social dialogue is one of the key elements of the European social model as enshrined in article 151 of the treaty of Functioning of the EU (TFEU). The UK has signed the European Social Charter to which that article refers.

The United Kingdom government must engage in meaningful social dialogue as their European counterparts do.

Yours

Jan Willem Goudriaan



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary