

To : Mr Andrej Plenković  
President of the Government of the Republic of  
Croatia  
[predsjednik@vlada.hr](mailto:predsjednik@vlada.hr)

Mr Josip Aladrović  
Minister of Labour and Pension System  
[kabinet@mrms.hr](mailto:kabinet@mrms.hr)

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Brussels, 26 March 2020

Dear Prime Minister, Dear Minister of Labour

As general secretary of EPSU, the European trade union federation representing public service workers across Europe, I am writing to you to express deep concern over news that your government might be planning to introduce emergency legislation that would seriously undermine employment and trade union rights and without any consultation with the trade union movement. This is absolutely the wrong signal from a government that holds the EU Presidency.

Our six affiliated trade unions in Croatia represent tens of thousands of public service employees, including many health and social care workers who are risking their lives in dealing with the impact of the COVID-19 virus. It is crucial that these workers have access to vital personal protective equipment and that other health and safety rules are properly applied. While recognising that emergency measures are required in the current situation, there is no justification to deny trade unions a role. Indeed, in Italy, the worst affected country in Europe, the trade unions have been central to the efforts needed to tackle the crisis and only yesterday negotiated a new agreement on health and safety with the Ministry of Health.

Croatian unions reject the proposals and I trust you will reconsider any plans to weaken employment and trade union rights and carry out a proper process of negotiation and social dialogue with the trade unions over the necessary measures to respond to this emergency.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan  
EPSU General Secretary