

To EPSU Affiliated Unions in Austria:  
Younion, GPA, Vida

Ref.: JWG/cb

Brussels, 13 October 2021

Dear Colleagues

I am sending you solidarity greetings on behalf of EPSU for your demonstration on Thursday. We very much hope that a loud and lively protest will help get the message across to the Ministry of Education that workers in early years education deserve more respect and appreciation for the work that they do.

It is completely unacceptable that the trade unions have been excluded from the elementary education advisory board. They should have been involved from the start but it is particularly crucial that their voices are heard now at a time when the pandemic has intensified many of the problems they have been facing. Heavy workloads and understaffing have been made worse as sickness absence has increased, with inadequate measures taken to protect staff.

Workers in early years education play a vital role in children's development and this should be recognised, and action taken to improve job security, career development and training. We wholeheartedly support the trade union demands for the demonstration. The sector needs more investment, better working conditions and more staff and all guaranteed at federal level to avoid regional disparities.

Our affiliates in early years education across Europe will definitely echo these demands. A noisy and successful demonstration in Vienna will send out a positive message to other affiliates who are negotiating, lobbying and protesting to win similar improvements for their members.

In solidarity,



Jan Willem Goudriaan  
EPSU General Secretary