

Minister of Energy of Russian Federation
Novak Alexandr Valentinovich

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Brussels, 18 February 2013

Subject: Wage negotiations in the electrical power industry

Dear Minister Novak,

We have been informed that the employers for the electrical power sector still have not come to an agreement with the All-Russia Electro-Union, a union affiliated to EPSU, the European Federation of Public Service Unions. The energy workers are in the process of bargaining with the Russian Employers' Community and are seeking decent pay and conditions for the power industry workers. The workers organized action on 15 November 2012. The employers did not listened to their message.

The "All-Russian Electric Trade Union" will now use its constitutional right for peaceful action and organizes a **2nd protest action – power engineering workers must not be poor**. The protests and pickets take place in all Russia with the main meeting being in one of Moscow's central squares on February 20th, 2013. There will be regional meetings and pickets from East to West In Russia. The participants of the action will be showing their companies' logos as well as the trade union symbols.

The actions are a sign of the tensions between the workers and the employers. Real wages of industrial personnel in the industry did not increase for several years while consumer prices did. Some workers saw their wages frozen. There are large inequalities between the salaries of managerial staff and other workers. Top managers run the companies based on profit maximisation and save money by keeping staff costs down to such an extent that there are threats for the quality and continuity of the services and provision of electricity. This will have a detrimental effect on citizens and business.

We support the demand of the union for an increase in salaries for the workers of the power sector and will inform our affiliates.

We kindly ask you to use your influence to ensure that the employers return to the bargaining table and negotiate a fair deal for the workers that will benefit their families and their communities.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU Deputy General Secretary

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EPSU is the European Trade Union Federation representing 8 million public service workers in all European countries including in the European Union and EEA countries, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine amongst others. The European Federation of Public Service Trade Unions represents workers in local regional government, national and European administrations, health and social services and the utilities. In the electricity and gas sector, EPSU represents workers in production, transmission, distribution, retail and related services. Our members work with all sources such as oil, gas, nuclear, hydro, coal and renewables and are active in small companies as well as large multinationals, in both public (state and municipal) as well as private companies. Our members understand the importance of providing affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity to businesses and households as workers with families and living in communities.