

Guvernul Romaniei - Domnului Prim Ministru Victor Viorel Ponta

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Ministerul Economiei - Departamentul pentru Energie - Domnului Ministru Constantin Nita

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Brussels, 31 October 2013

Dear Prime Minister, dear Mr. Ponta,

Dear Minister, dear Mr. Nita,

EPSU, the European Federation of Public Services Unions and a recognised European social partner, has been informed of the serious problems facing workers in Hidroelectrica and Hidroserve. Also the population is facing serious risks. We ask for your immediate intervention:

- to investigate the risks for the population and the electrical system because of the badly operated and maintained companies
- to protect the jobs of the workers concerned and provide guarantees for the future.
- to demand that the employers respect the legislation and collective agreements
- to cease their threats to trade union members and leadership.

We look forward to your immediate response.

Dear Sirs, as you will be aware, the Hidroelectrica company became insolvent in June 2012. The judiciary administrator, Remus Borza, a lawyer by profession, transferred a part of the problems to the Hidroserve, the commercial maintenance companies with only one share holder, Hidroelectrica itself. He decided to reduce drastically the maintenance services. Following this decision, Hidroelectrica hasn't made any maintenance work since, in violation of the legislation and the regulations regarding the energy system. Consequently, there have been many incidents at the main hydropower station in Romania, Portile de Fier, and the last one could have had extremely serious consequences. Also, Hidroelectrica has discharged huge quantities of water that would have allowed it to produce additionally approx. 3 TWh which would have provided the income for the maintenance expenses and for further investments.

There is a suspicion of conflicts of interests as Mr. Borza appointed as manager of the maintenance company a person from his entourage, with no experience or connection with the energy domain, Radu Silaghi. Mr. Silaghi has led the company to huge losses bringing it on the verge of bankruptcy with a view to privatising it later on to a group of interests from the same entourage.

Over 1000 employees are in danger of losing their jobs. For the last 10 months they have been working 4 days/week. 1500 employees have already been fired without any criteria,

including pregnant women, mothers on maternity leave, people with incurable diseases (cancer), in violation of the law.

The CBA is not respected, although it has been negotiated until the end of 2014. The managers are pushing for new negotiations with the representatives of the employees, not with the union. In August 2013, the 8 servicing companies which existed before merged. The new big company had to apply the best of the 8 CBAs until the contract came to its term, i.e. end of 2014. But Mr. Silaghi has called for general assembly meetings to set up a committee of workers representatives with whom to negotiate a new contract. The aim is to reduce the number of employees and to give a part of the services to private companies. This is clearly aimed to weaken the union and contravenes EU and ILO norms and standards.

Because the trade union at Portile de Fier has permanently fought against the high corruption in the energy system and the policy of the 2 managers, there is high pressure at the moment on the union leaders and employees who are threatened of losing their jobs. My colleague, the union leader, Cristinel Popescu, says he receives threats, with or without witnesses, and the administration is doing everything possible to get rid of him.

Dear Prime Minister, dear Minister

You will understand that the situation is very serious. Failure to act immediately can have serious consequences, not just for my union colleague, for the workers concerned but also for the population.

EPSU is a recognised European social partner. We are in regulator contact with the European employers, with the European Parliament and European Commission and Council members. We appreciate to learn about the actions taken.

We look forward to your immediate response

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU Deputy General Secretary

EPSU is the European Federation of Public Service Unions. It is the largest federation of the ETUC and comprises 8 million public service workers from over 265 trade unions; EPSU organises workers in the energy, water and waste sectors, health and social services and local and national administration, in all European countries including in the EU's Eastern Neighborhood. EPSU is the recognized regional organization of Public Services International (PSI). For more information on EPSU and our work please go to: <http://www.epsu.org>