

General Directorate of Highways  
Director Mehmet Cahit Turhan  
Adress: İnönü Bulvarı No: 14  
06100 Yücepete/ANKARA  
Turkey

E-Mail: [info@kgm.gov.tr](mailto:info@kgm.gov.tr)  
Fax: +90 312 417 28 51

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Contact person: Jan Willem Goudriaan

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Dear Director, dear Mr. Mehmet Cahit Turhan

Today many workers in the directorate will join other workers often employed in your subcontractors and supported by other unions of Turk-Is in a large demonstration in Ankara. The workers will protest the lack of progress to ensure the workers in the subcontracted companies are covered by a collective agreement of the General Directorate for Highways. EPSU, the European Federation of Public Service Unions expresses its solidarity with the demonstration calling for respect and decent pay for workers in subcontractors on 24 November in Ankara. This is the wish of the workers. That is why they mobilise. They have also won several Court cases including in Turkish Supreme Court.

It is often workers that are employed by subcontractors, that are in a very vulnerable position, often with more precarious contracts and higher risks of accidents. We recall that the record of Turkey on health and safety is not good. The terrible accident in the SOMA mine and the recent accidents as well as the suffering they have caused for workers, families and communities are not forgotten. Ensuring that the collective agreement applies to the workers in subcontractors who carry out work for the General Directorate is a step towards ensuring that workers receive proper protection. I point out the large body of research in this regard.

Dear Director, dear Mr. Turhan,  
We would like to see you negotiate with the trade union that subcontracted workers are covered by the collective agreement, to ensure to the workers decent pay and conditions, a safe working environment and hence the prospect of a better life for their children and families.

We look forward to hear from you,  
Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan  
EPSU General Secretary

*EPSU is representing 8 million workers in Europe and the leading voice of public sector workers. We are recognised as a European Social partner by the European Commission.*