



Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada
Oleksandr Turchynov
Members of the Verkhovna Rada
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Parliament of Ukraine

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Ref.: JWG/cb

Brussels, 3 July 2014

Dear President of the Verkhovna Rada Mr. Oleksandr Turchynov,
Dear Members of the Верховна Рада України (Ukrainian Parliament),

We have been informed of the draft resolution brought in by People's Deputy S.M.Kaplin in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. This resolution asks for the setting up of a Temporary Inquiry Commission of the Verkhovna Rada to investigate facts of illegal disposal of immovable property that is used by the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine. It also asks for an inquiry into the illegal cooperation of union officials with the, now described as criminal, former Yanukovych regime. This appears to be part of a campaign to accuse the trade unions and their leadership of unpatriotic behaviour in the midst of the crisis with Russia. The leadership of the FPU is critical of government proposals on how to deal with the social and economic situation in the country as well as with the policies of structural reform proposed by the IMF. It has proposed alternatives to these policies.

It is highly worrying that the normal activities of the trade unions are now targeted to stifle opposition in civil society to the government. We remind you of the international and European treaties and conventions signed by the Ukraine that promote and protect trade union work including for example the core labour conventions on the freedom of association and right to organise and on the right to bargaining (ILO conventions 87 and 98), the European Social Charter of the Council of Europe and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union that Ukraine has committed to respect as part of its engagements to sign the Association Agreement with the European Union, signed by President Poroshenko, 27 June 2014.

There have been similar accusations regarding the use of the properties of the trade unions in the past. These have been found to be without a basis in reality and revealed how business groups sought to gain control of these. The attached statement of the FPU recalls the previous cases.

We point out that the trade unions are concentrating on their functions to protect and promote the interests of their members and workers and that many members supported the Maidan protests. We have also received reports that members of the FPU Presidium from Lugansk have been prevented to attend meetings of the FPU, and even that these members have been intimidated and instructed at gunpoint to convene a meeting to disaffiliate from the FPU and become subordinated directly to the "Lugansk People's Republic" leaders. We ask you to investigate these incidents.

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OF PUBLIC
SERVICE
UNIONS

• FEDERACIÓN
SINDICAL
EUROPEA DE
SERVICIOS
PÚBLICOS

• FÉDÉRATION
SYNDICALE
EUROPÉENNE
DES SERVICES
PUBLICS

• EUROPEISKA
FEDERATIONEN
FÖR ÖFFENTLIG
ANSTÄLLDAS
FÖRBUND

• EUROPÄISCHER
GEWERKSCHAFTS-
VERBAND FÜR DEN
ÖFFENTLICHEN
DIENST

• ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ
ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ
ПРОФСОЮЗОВ
ОБЩЕСТВЕННОГО
ОБСЛУЖИВАНИЯ

The FPU is a member of the International trade union confederation (ITUC) and its affiliated members are part of the European and global trade union federations EPSU and PSI. EPSU is a recognised European social partner.

**Dear President of the Verkhovna Rada Mr. Oleksandr Turchynov,
We ask you to circulate our letter to your colleagues of the Ukrainian
Parliament. We ask the Members of the Parliament to reject the resolution.**

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary

encl. : statement of the FPU Presidium (EN/UKR)

cc.:

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