



Mr. Cevat Durak  
Mayor of Karsiyaka  
TURKEY

Fax: +90 232 399 43 77-79  
e-mail: [info@karsiyaka.bel.tr](mailto:info@karsiyaka.bel.tr)

REF. JWG/lt

Brussels, 2 October 2009

Contact person: Jan Willem Goudriaan

### **Support for dismissed KENT-AS workers**

Dear Mr. Durak,

We have been informed by our Turkish colleagues of Genel-Is of the brutal dismissal of 276 workers following the contracting out of the municipal services previously provided by KENT-AS in Karsiyaka Municipality in İzmir. The 276 workers are all members of Genel-Is, an EPSU affiliated trade union in Turkey. Genel-Is has informed us that the Municipality dismissed these workers due to lack of resources and excess workforce. PSI believes that the main reason for dismissing these workers was to outsource these services. Indeed, shortly after the dismissals took place, the municipal services were contracted out and there are now more workers covered by these contracts than the previously dismissed workers.

This dismissal does not only contravene the decent behavior expected from a public authority, but is likely to violate legal standards such as applied in the EU and which Turkey has vowed to apply following its application for Membership of the European Union.

EPSU believes that outsourcing or contracting out municipal services adds to the cost of public administration both in financial and social terms. We also have evidence from other countries that contracting out of services can lead to corruption. We refer you to the research of the University of Greenwich (PSIRU) [www.psiru.org](http://www.psiru.org).

The workers' struggle has been going on for 5 months now. Genel-Is leaders have sought conciliation with the Municipality Administration but to date have not received a response despite all their efforts. As a result, they have now started a long protest march from Izmir to Ankara. EPSU was dismayed to learn of police interference and health problems during the march.

This is a clear violation of trade union rights: dismissals for contracting out are unacceptable.

EUROPEAN  
FEDERATION  
OF PUBLIC  
SERVICE  
UNIONS

• FEDERACION  
SINDICAL  
EUROPEA DE  
SERVICIOS  
PUBLICOS

• FEDERATION  
SYNDICALE  
EUROPEENNE  
DES SERVICES  
PUBLICS

• EUROPEISKA  
FEDERATIONEN  
FÖR OFFENTLIG  
ANSTÄLLDAS  
FÖRBUND

• EUROPÄISCHER  
GEWERKSCHAFTS-  
VERBAND FÜR DEN  
ÖFFENTLICHEN  
DIENST



EPSU will be closely monitoring the situation and, when needed, intervene with the European Commission and others and inform them of the way a Turkish municipal administration is not respecting basic European Union rules and regulations.

We trust that you will find a just and lasting solution to this problem.

Sincerely yours,

Jan Willem Goudriaan  
EPSU Deputy General Secretary