



FAX MESSAGE

To: Democratic TU of Health Workers
C/o Ágnes CSER, president
Fax: and email
Subject: Solidarity Message
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"Scandinavian Strikes" in Hungary's Health Sector

PSI Solidarity Message

Dear Ágnes,

Public Services International expresses its full support and solidarity with the one-day-a-week strikes the EDDSZ is presently initiating in Hungary. Your union's demand of an agreement with the government about resources of Ft 1,500 billion (\$ 7.6bn) to be pumped into health care over the next five years, the provision of conditions for secure health care, payment of a promised and as yet unrealized 6% salary rise and a 50% wage hike for 2005 is not only in the interest of the Hungarian health workers, but also in favour of the Hungarian citizens and patients.

It is not acceptable that, for instance, in Hungary, nurses earn 15 times less than their colleagues in France. PSI fully endorses the statement made by you as president of the union that reads: *"In the European Union, everyone is entitled to quality health care. How are we to provide such a service when often there are no means to provide professional services at all?"*

Professional health services are quality public services and a human right; such services can be delivered only by quality workers (well-trained, well-paid and imbued with the public sector ethos), with quality working conditions and with resources which enable users to expect quality every time.

We wish you and your colleagues best success in your important struggle.

In solidarity,

HANS ENGELBERTS
General Secretary

JÜRGEN BUXBAUM
European Secretary