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PERC

Brussels, 26 September 2013

### **Romanian Labour Code and Social Dialogue Law**

Dear Prime Minister

We were very concerned to learn that the Romanian government is determined to leave the labour law, passed by the previous government – unchanged, and this despite an agreement reached with trade union representatives prior to your government coming to power.

Since the introduction of the new Labour Code and the new Social Dialogue Law in 2011, working conditions have deteriorated and bipartite and tripartite social dialogue have continuously diminished.

Long term contracts have been transformed into fixed term contracts. Temporary work has been regulated and is now a very common feature of the labour market. The enforcement of this form of work will increase precarious work and social exclusion and poverty, all in the name of better competitiveness.

The financial crisis corroborated with unfavourable legislation led to the bankruptcy of many big companies, which resulted in an increase in the unemployment rate. The percentage of the population living below the poverty line is one of the largest in the European Union.

The Social Dialogue Law dramatically restricts the functioning of the trade union organisations and the possibility of setting up and developing genuine dialogue.

The International Trade Union Confederation, representing 175 million workers in 156 countries and territories, is writing to you to express its support with our trade union colleagues in Romania and our complete support for their actions to convince the Romanian government to honour its promises and to initiate procedures to amend the current legislation on the labour market and social dialogue.

We need credible institutions and credible politicians, that work FOR the people who elected them, and not AGAINST them, and who respect the principle of decent work, the social needs of the population and workers' rights.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Burrow', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Sharan Burrow  
General Secretary

cc: ITUC European Affiliates, incl. BNS, Cartel Alfa, CNSLR-FRATIA and CSDR.