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To the members of the EPSU Executive Committee

To all EPSU Statutory Committees

To the members of the Collective Bargaining Working Group

Ref.: JWG/RP/NS/mb

Contact persons: Richard Pond/Nadja Salson

Brussels, 29 April 2021

## **Defending and strengthening trade union rights in public services 25-26 May 2021 (9.00-12.30 each day)**

### **Launch conference of the project:**

Trade union rights and implementation of  
the Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions Directive in public services  
A joint project of EPSU, EUROMIL and EuroCOP

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to invite you to participate in this online conference to discuss trade union rights in the public services. The conference marks the launch of our joint project with EUROMIL and EuroCOP, the federations representing military and police personnel.

Many of our members face restrictions on the right to organise, negotiate and take strike action. In some countries the limitations or complete bans impact particularly on uniformed staff – not just the military and police but also firefighters, prison staff and even emergency service workers. However, they may also affect other workers such as civil servants and workers in energy and water services.

This issue has moved up the agenda within the European Union with the transposition of the Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions Directive. A last-minute change to the directive gives Member States the possibility to exclude certain categories of worker (civil servants, public emergency services, armed and police forces) from coverage of parts of the legislation. However, it is also a matter of major concern in many countries outside of the EU.

This project will give affiliates of our three federations the chance to discuss the challenges they face and learning from colleagues, particularly in those countries with a good record in affording all the basic rights to trade unions across the public services.

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federation of the ETUC  
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This launch conference will be the first major exchange within the project and will aim to identify the challenges we face both in terms of the countries where bans and limitations are most problematic, and the types of restrictions imposed on our members.

The European Commission funding for the project has allowed us to contract research work to the University of Ghent which will provide an overview of the state of play on the fundamental rights to organise, negotiate and take strike action. Other speakers will include Carlos Carrion-Crespo the International Labour Organisation specialist for public services and utilities and Adam Pokorny from the European Commission, with responsibility for the Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions Directive. Further speakers will be confirmed shortly.

To register online for the meeting, please follow this [LINK](#). Please log in first. **The deadline for registration is 17 May 2021.**

The meeting will be on the zoom platform and the link will be sent later to all those who register. Interpretation will be provided to and from English, French, German, Italian, Croatian, Spanish, Romanian and Russian. You will also be able to speak, but not listen to Greek and Hungarian.

We hope that your trade union will participate.

Best regards,



Jan Willem Goudriaan  
EPSU General Secretary

**List of enclosures:** Invitation letter and information for participants to be found at:  
<https://www.epsu.org/event/launch-conference-defending-and-strengthening-trade-union-rights-across-public-services>

(members only area - login to the EPSU website)