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To affiliates in Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain

Ref.: JWG/RP/NS/mb

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Brussels, 15 July 2021

Defending and strengthening trade union rights in public services 14-15 September 2021 (9.00-12.30 each day)

First regional online meeting in 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 seminar to discuss trade union rights in the public services. This is a joint project with EUROMIL and EuroCOP, the federations representing military and police personnel, that was launched in May and this seminar will be the first of five regional meetings.

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 meeting will give affiliates of our three federations the chance to discuss the challenges they face and learn 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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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 in the seven countries covered by this meeting.

Other speakers will include Carlos Carrion-Crespo the International Labour Organisation specialist for public services and utilities, Stefan Clauwaert, senior legal and human rights advisor at the ETUC and we hope also to confirm the participation of Adam Pokorny from the European Commission, with responsibility for the Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions Directive.

To register online for the meeting, please follow this [LINK](#). Please log in first. **The deadline for registration is 6 September 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, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.

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/defending-and-strengthening-trade-union-rights-public-services-first-regional-online-meeting>

(members only area - login to the EPSU website)