

Ms Atifete Jahjaga
President of Republic of Kosovo
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Brussels, 29 January 2015

Dear President Jahjaga,

I am writing to you as General Secretary of the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) in order to express our full support of our affiliate, FSSHK and our concern about the failure to implement the collective agreement in the sector and the law on wages.

EPSU represents over 7 million public service workers in 49 countries and we are the recognised social partner at European level in several sectors in including in the hospital/health care sector. Our affiliates across Europe negotiate in good faith and it is a matter of great concern when a health sector employer and/or government fails to put collective agreements and legislation into effect.

An important part of our work in the health sector has highlighted the challenge of low pay and migration of health workers. We believe that health workers across Europe, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, are doing their best to provide high quality services in the face of cuts to jobs and funding. Their contribution needs to be recognised. They need long overdue increases in pay that will begin to reverse, or at least, slow the migration of nurses, doctors and other staff. They urgently need better conditions when it comes to the health and safety at the workplace and their employment contracts, with less fix-term and precarious jobs. They need access to continued professional training to keep up their skills and competences for good quality services and a high level of patient safety.

EPSU would argue that it is a grave mistake for any country to believe it can make short-term savings on healthcare without creating longer term problems for its workforce, and thereby putting a greater burden on health services in the future.

We firmly support the call by FSSHK to implement the General Collective Agreement that was adopted in March 2014, to start social dialogue on an increase to wages and to implement the law on wages adopted in 2010.

We prefer to see negotiations rather than strike action and would urge you to start a dialogue with FSSHK as soon as possible. If you don't react then we will give our full support to the union in the action planned for 30th January.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary