



Prague, 10 September 2010

Dear Colleagues,

We ask you for collegial support in our struggle against drastic pay cuts prepared by the Czech Government for workers in the public sector.

Public services workers have been paid according to pay-scales containing 16 grades according to qualifications and 12 steps according to the length of professional career. According to the new suggestion of the Government the 12 steps should be abolished and the mandatory pay should only be connected with the level of qualifications, which might be complemented with (non-mandatory) extra bonuses and premiums. The basic rates should at the same time be cut by at least 10 per cent. In final result experienced workers with tens of years of professional career would get at the same level as young workers just starting their professional lives and lose as much as 40 per cent of their present-day wages. The cuts should save as much as CZK 21 billion on pay of public services workers next year.

The intended pay cuts require changes in the Labour Code, which is another step that the Government wants to take. Besides the changes necessary for introduction of the new pay scales, other changes in the Labour Code are intended, making employment more flexible and less secure, cutting further different items of social and financial support for employees, for those who have lost their work, for families and for elderly people.

The changes intended by the Czech Government will affect hundreds of thousands of Civil workers, healthcare workers, workers in social care, policemen, firemen, teachers and other workers in education and training, workers in culture and protection of the environment, civilian workers in the army and other categories and groups of workers in public services. Guaranteed statutory salaries of some of them will fall even under the official minimum wage - after tens of years of their professional career.

The intended steps of the Government mean a slap in the face of working people, the absolute contempt of professional experience and loyalty of workers. They are absolutely unacceptable for trade unions. Top representatives of trade unions have been negotiating with the respective ministers. The results, nevertheless, are sad – it seems that the Government is going to push the drastic cuts through at any cost and without any respect to anything or anybody.

Czech trade unions in public services are preparing a protest demonstration on 21 September 2010. We would be very grateful if you could support our struggle for retention of decent attitude towards working people who support the State in its basic roles of public services provision.

The names and addresses of the leading representatives of the Czech Republic are as follows:

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With thanks for your solidarity and best regards,

Bc. Dagmar Žitníková
Ing. Ivana Břeňková,
Vice-presidents of Trade union of the Health Service and Social Care of the Czech Republic