

Standing Committee of Health and Social Services of European Public Service Unions (EPSU)

Solidarity Message to Health and Social Services Workers in Romania

Dear Colleagues,

We are sending our solidarity message to support your actions in protecting workers' rights in the health and social services sector in Romania. The current vote on the budget in the parliament aims to bring unacceptable austerity measures for the health and social sector and their workers, who were at the forefront to protect our sociates from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We neither understand nor accept that the wages in health and social services are frozen, despite the promises made by the government last year to increase them. Furthermore, the government announced that the bonuses will be paid at the same level as in 2018 but the new legislation removed the holidays vouchers.

We observed with grave concern the lack of negotiations and genuine dialogue with trade unions, who recently protested at the streets of Romania.

The genuine dialogue with the unions is crucial to provide quality health care for the Romanian population and to recognise workers' heroism in fighting COVID-19. More than ever the European governments need to improve wages of health and social services professionals to allow them to continue their work, as well as to make Europe and Romania more resilient towards future health emergencies. Already through the Action Plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Commission announced the importance for the Member States to invest in the health and care workforce to improve their working conditions.

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Brussels, 11 March 2021