



Statement from the Russian-Central Asian Constituency

adopted by the unions in the constituency meeting, 28 February 2017, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

New economic policies needed – public investment, pay increases and respect for workers' rights

The public service trade unions in Russia and Central-Asia members of EPSU/PSI:

- Express concerns about the economic and social situation in the region. Economic growth has stagnated and this impacts on the living and working conditions of workers, families and our communities. Pay and pensions have been affected. Cuts in funding for public services effects the access of people to basic services such as health and social services.
- Underline that it is important for governments to stimulate economic growth. This can be done through increased public investment in public services and infrastructure and through ensuring public service and other workers get a pay increase. This will stimulate domestic demand.
- Note the need for investment not only in infrastructures in for example energy, municipal services, health and social services. We need investment in workers as well to respond to staff shortages and to ensure highly qualified workforce to respond to people's demands for quality public services. Privatization of public services and Public-Private Partnerships are not the answer to the lack of funding. They cause multiple problems for public finances, workers and the quality of services.
- Are concerned about reports on attacks on workers' rights and confirm the importance of workers' rights and the right to strike, social dialogue and collective bargaining at all levels (inter-professional, sectoral and at the work place).
- Will contribute to the work of EPSU/PSI to advocate for alternative economic policies away from the neo-liberal model. We do this at national, regional and global level.

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