

REF. JWG/lt

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Brussels, 15 May 2014

Our sympathy and solidarity to those affected by the mining accident in Soma.

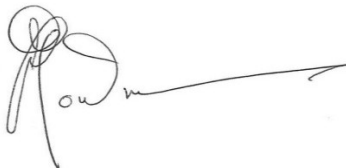
Dear Colleagues,

We are shocked about the news of the terrible mining accident in Soma on 13 May in which so many workers have died, others which are injured and still many miners which are trapped underground. We hope with you they will be saved by the rescue and emergency-service teams that display such courage. EPSU salutes their work in these difficult circumstances.

Please extend our sincere condolences to the families of the miners which have died in this terrible accident on behalf of the European Federation of Public Service Unions and its affiliated unions across Europe. Our thoughts are with them as well as the friends and colleagues of the miners.

The terrible disaster underlines that work to gain an income and support your loved ones can be very dangerous. Accidents should not be accepted as natural phenomena. They can be prevented through strict health and safety rules with a role for the trade unions. It also needs well-resourced and equipped labour inspectorates with the staff necessary to monitor, evaluate and sanction employers that do not invest in workers' protection. The Turkish government should act. EPSU will stand with you to address this.

In Solidarity



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU Deputy General Secretary