

Mr. Ramazan, President  
Mr. Teflik, General Secretary  
The Turkish Union of Road  
Construction and Building Workers  
Sümer 1 Sokak N°18  
Kizilay – Ankara  
Turkey

REF. JWG/lt  
Contact person: Jan Willem Goudriaan

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Dear President, dear General Secretary, dear brothers and sisters,

EPSU, the European Federation of Public Service Unions expresses its solidarity with your demonstration calling for respect and decent pay for workers in subcontractors on 24 November in Ankara. The collective agreement of the General Directorate for Highways should cover those workers as well. It is appalling that the General Director for Highways is not respecting the wishes of the workers, the mobilization of your members nor the verdicts of the Courts at various levels and ultimately the Turkish Supreme Court. All of these have made clear that workers in subcontractors should be covered by the collective agreement.

It is often workers that are employed by subcontractors that are in a very vulnerable position, often with more precarious contracts and higher risks of accidents. We recall that the record of Turkey on health and safety is not good. The terrible accident in the SOMA mine and the recent accidents as well as the suffering they have caused for workers, families and communities are not forgotten. Ensuring that the collective agreement applies to the workers in subcontractors who carry out work for the General Directorate is a step towards ensuring that workers receive proper protection.

Dear President Ramazan, dear General Secretary Teflik, dear brothers and sisters

EPSU, representing 8 million workers in Europe and the leading voice of public sector workers, wishes you a successful mobilization and outcome of your struggle. Many of our members are having a similar fight to ensure workers in subcontractors remain organized and part of the union movement and above all can benefit from a collective agreement. The countries might be different, the fight is the same.

In Solidarity



Jan Willem Goudriaan  
EPSU General Secretary