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Internationale de l'Éducation
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TO:

ETUCE and EI member organisations in Ukraine

Joint EI-ETUCE Support Letter to our Member Organisations in Ukraine

Dear colleagues,

ETUCE and EI express our unequivocal solidarity with you and share both European and international trade union community's dismay over President Zelenskyy's signature to the bill 5371 on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts regarding the Simplification of Labour Relations Regulations for Small and Medium Business on 17 August 2022, disregarding trade unions' calls made to veto it.

We fully affirm your standpoint and join in the international concern about the grave consequences the adoption of the bill will lead to. As stated in [the joint ITUC & ETUC Letter to the European Commission and European Council regarding Law 5371 on workers' rights in Ukraine](#), we reiterate that the enactment of this bill will result in irreparable damage to the industrial relations in the country. Among other things, it will deprive workers from the labour protections and collective rights of organisations with less than 250 employees.

[In fact](#), collective agreements negotiated by unions will no longer apply and unions have also lost the legal authority to veto workplace dismissals. This change opens the door to arbitrary dismissals and will create fear to engage in trade union or other independent activities.

ETUCE and EI stand with you in the fight against injustice and violation of workers' rights.

Indeed, the European Parliament in its Resolution of 11 February 2021 on the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement called on the Government of Ukraine to "give priority to implementation of international labour standards and the EU legislation and practice in order to ensure the balance of the interests of social partners and protection of the rights of employees in accordance with the provisions of the Association Agreement". Moreover, the European parliamentarians pointed out to the Government of Ukraine that "its measures to improve business climate, attract direct investment and promote economic development cannot be implemented at the expense of limiting workers' rights and worsening working conditions" (§ 110).

In the context of the EU accession process, ETUCE and EI will be further calling on the European and international institutions and bodies, demanding for both EU and international leverage on this unacceptable matter.

In solidarity,



David Edwards
EI General Secretary



Susan Flocken
ETUCE European Director