

To Prime Minister of Czechia
To Petr Fiala

premier@vlada.gov.cz

Ref. JWG/cb

Brussels, 21 May 2024

Dear Prime Minister, dear Mr. Fiala

The Confederation CMKOS, including the unions that are affiliated to EPSU, called for a national demonstration 21 May in Prague. Due to the tense situation following the regrettable shooting of the PM of Slovakia, Mr. Fico, and to calm down tensions the unions cancelled the demonstration. This shows our affiliates' responsibility.

That does not mean that they agree with the reforms of the labour code, the reason for the demonstration. They have requested to meet with you to discuss the reforms. On behalf of EPSU, the European Federation of Public Service Unions, a recognised European social partner and representing 8 million public service workers across the EU and Europe, I call upon you to meet and have a constructive discussion, taking account of the concerns raised by the Czech workers and their unions.

Such a meeting and discussion is very much in line with the Council Recommendation of 12 June 2023 on strengthening social dialogue in the EU, with the *Val Duchesse declaration* on the Social Dialogue and with the *La Hulpe declaration* to mention just a few recent statements of the Council, Commission and social partners on the issue.

EPSU has expressed its solidarity with CMKOS and the unions, and we discussed these labour reforms in our Executive Committee on 16 May. There was great concern of unions across Europe that workers' protections would be weakened in Czechia and would not improve the situation for workers, their families and communities.

We look forward to the news that you will meet the unions and to a constructive debate in which the views of the unions are taken into account.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary