



ITUC International Trade Union Confederation
CSI Confédération syndicale internationale
CSI Confederación Sindical Internacional
IGB Internationaler Gewerkschaftsbund

João Antonio Felicio

President
Président
Präsident
Presidente

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
Secrétaire générale
Generalsekretärin
Secretaria General

Mr Fadil Novalić
Prime Minister
Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Alipašina 41
BiH 71 000 Sarajevo

By e-mail: premijer@fbihvlada.gov.ba

PERC/SEE/ES

Brussels, 24 May 2016

Dear Prime Minister,

We, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the largest global trade union organisation representing 180 million of workers in 162 countries and territories and with 333 national affiliates, including trade unions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, are addressing you for the second time in the course of the last several months.

We would like to take this opportunity and express our concerns related to the latest information we have received from our affiliate in Bosnia and Herzegovina, related to the matter of registration of trade union organisations. This time, it is the removal of one of the organisations from the register, an integral part of our affiliate, in violation of the International Labor Organization Convention 87 ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Confederation of Independent Trade Unions of Bosnia and Herzegovina (SSSBiH) informed us that the 53rd session of the Government FBiH, held on 13 May 2016 adopted the Decision on the declaration of nullity of the Decision No. 06-05-218/16 dated 13 May 2016, which declares null and void the decision of the Federation Ministry of Justice on the registration in the Register of Associations of FBiH of the Trade Union of Primary Education of FBiH (SSOOiO FBiH) and orders the Federation Ministry of Justice to issue a Decision on removal of Independent Trade Union of Primary Education of the Federation BiH from the Register of Associations of FBiH.

The matter of registration of trade unions in Bosnia and Herzegovina was considered in 2002 by the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association, and in 2006 by the ILO Committee on Application of Standards. The Committee expressed on that occasion its concerns related to the registration of trade union organisations, and recommended the state of BiH to harmonise legal norms and practice related to the matter of registration of trade unions in compliance with the ILO Convention 87.

The FBiH Government Decision represents a blatant violation of freedom of association. It is a direct interfering in the work of trade unions directed to eliminate SSOiO FBiH that represents 11,000 members from collective bargaining, favoring another trade union organisation.

On behalf of the ITUC I urge you, Mr Prime Minister, to reverse the decision of 13 May 2016, and to make sure that the trade union rights – on freedom of association and collective bargaining – are fully respected in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in line with the obligations under ILO Conventions 87. We will not hesitate to inform the international and European institutions about this worrying situation and are ready to support any complaint that our affiliate may decide to submit to the Committee of Freedom of Association, should the violations of trade union rights continue in your country.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. R.', written in a cursive style.

General Secretary

Cc: - SSSBiH