

To: Hungarian trade unions ESZT, SZEF and MASZSZ

Praha, May 5, 2020

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

It is with very serious concern that we are receiving information about the latest development in Hungary. Recent steps taken by Viktor Orbán's government constitute affront to the trade union and labour rights.

One of the two most appealing initiatives is the Decree 104/2020, which was introduced by the government and gives the employer power to unilaterally order 24-month working time frame, while prohibiting any derogations in collective agreements. This measure complements previous government decree suspending provisions of the Labour Code, for the period of the state of emergency.

Another initiative of the Hungarian government aims at stripping employees from libraries, museums, archives, social cultural centres, theatres and orchestras of the public employee status. This would affect some 20,000 employees.

The unexpected and particularly cynical actions of the government, without any consultation with the trade unions, constitute a violation of all international labour standards. Neither the procedure nor the intentions are acceptable and justified, especially now, during the coronavirus epidemic, when the trade unions have limited capacity to act due to the public health situation, due to restrictions on communication and assembly.

We unequivocally protest against such treatment of Hungarian workers which unfortunately are not isolated actions but form a distinctive anti-trade union and anti-worker pattern of politics of the current Hungarian regime. We wish to express all the solidarity and assistance to the Hungarian workers, our brothers and sisters, in these very difficult times.

In solidarity,



Josef Středula
President of ČMKOS