



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación
Bildungsinternationale



Brussels, 1 September 2022

TO MEMBER ORGANISATIONS IN UKRAINE

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

Dear colleagues,

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

We fully affirm your standpoint and join in the international concern about the grave consequences which adoption of the bill is going to 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 cause irreparable damage to the industrial relations in the country. Among other aspects, it will strip workers of their labour protections and collective rights in enterprises with less than 250 employees.

In fact, collective agreements negotiated by unions will no longer apply, and unions will also lose the legal authority to veto workplace dismissals. The Bill also opens the door to arbitrary dismissals and will instil fear in workers for engaging in trade union activities.

ETUCE and EI stand with you in the fight against injustice and violations 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.' The Parliament further warned 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 continue to lobby European and international institutions and bodies to demand that the Government of Ukraine adhere to international labour standards and respect workers' rights.

In solidarity,

David Edwards
EI General Secretary

Susan Flocken
ETUCE European Director