

Mr Dimitar Manolov  
President of PODKREPA - Bulgaria

[Letter sent by e-mail]  
[intdept@podkrepa.org](mailto:intdept@podkrepa.org)

Dear Dimitar,

I give the full support of the ETUC to Bulgarian trade unions for their nation-wide protest on 27 November, and ETUC fully supports your demands.

It is totally unacceptable that employers want to pass the cost of sick leave to workers. Bulgaria needs its employers to engage in serious social dialogue and collective bargaining, not to make unacceptable proposals. The most successful economies in Europe all have strong social dialogue and collective bargaining.

ETUC supports your demand for more funds for education, health and wages and for energy-poor citizens, and believes this will boost economic growth and competitiveness of Bulgaria.

We stand behind your demands for revision of the tax system to reduce inequality and the terrible levels of poverty in your country.

ETUC upholds your very reasonable demands for decent night and overtime pay.

The conditions of Bulgarian workers are not acceptable, and we join with you in your struggle for a fairer deal for Bulgarian workers.

Bulgarian workers need hope that wages and working conditions rise and approach the levels achieved in other parts of the European Union. This must be the aim and the daily fight of the Bulgarian Government and of the European Union.

We are with you and we fight every day in the heart of the European Union to achieve fair wages, fair working conditions, better minimum wages and stronger collective bargaining in every EU member state – and we must start with Bulgaria.

Solidarity with Bulgarian trade unions Podkrepa and CITUB, solidarity with Bulgarian working people.

Luca Visentini

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luca Visentini', with a stylized, cursive script.

General Secretary of the ETUC