

Ms Baroness Catherine Ashton  
High Representative of the Union  
for Foreign Affairs & Security  
Policy

European External Action Service  
1046 Brussels  
[Letter sent by e-mail]

Dear Ms Ashton

I am writing to draw to your attention the resolution of the Cabinet in Swaziland to ban all trade unions and employers' federations including the Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA), the Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce (FSE&CC), the Federation of the Swazi Business Community (FESBC) and the Amalgamated Trade Unions of Swaziland (ATUSWA).

This action is in blatant contravention of the spirit and letter of ILO conventions, the Cotonou Agreement, and the sustainable development chapter of the Economic Partnership Agreement reached recently between the EU and the SADC EPA Group under which the parties (including Swaziland) reconfirmed their obligations under international conventions, including core ILO standards.

I would ask the Commission to take urgent and robust action to persuade the Government to withdraw the resolution and engage in a peaceful and dignified manner with the social partners in their country.

I am copying this letter to Commissioner De Gucht.

Yours sincerely,



Bernadette Ségol  
General Secretary