Tirana - Albania on 20 March 2020
Subject: BSPSH - Albania strategy and measures against COVID-19

The world is facing a war that is the threatening humanity.
Trade Unions are facing many challenges during these period of time of Covid-19, that will have a negative social-economic impact on economy and employers and employees organisations. The first day of Covid-19 in Albania was on 9 March 2020, and BSPSH proposed a lot of requested to the Government:

1. Social consultation and social dialogue between social partners should be priority for the Government, because in these we can identified together the problems in each sectors.
2. Taking emergent actions to provide equipment for medical teams, masks, gloves, disinfectants, uniforms, medicines.
3. Increasing salaries in the health sector, at least 2 times more, at least 3000 Euro/month for doctors and 2500 Euro for nurses. increasing salaries for drivers of the emergency and all the staff in health sector up to double the monthly salaries for every employees in this sector.
4. Testing of the large population (screening), not just tracking infected people with COVID-19.
5. Taking measures for the return without any payment of all Albanians who remained abroad after the closure of the borders.
6. Involve students of Medicine Universities to join and assist medical teams after mandatory training.
7. Request to the Government to exempt from all the taxes all the enterprises and businesses for a period of 6 months.
8. BSPSH and SPMSH request to the Government and employers in the mining sector (underground and surface mining) to suspend the work, because it is impossible to apply hygiene rules, to apply distances, especially in the underground work fronts.
9. The Government in collaboration with employers of the mining industry should cooperate in order that they can pay the...
respective salaries of the miners during the suspension of the work. At the same time to pay social social and health insurance.

10. The same requirements should be applied at the cement industry

11. Creating facilities with low interest rate loans with 0.3% long term repayment, which would affect the strengthening of the economy after the period of COVID-19.

12. Financial support from the Government to provide full payment to all the employees of the all the enterprises where the work will be suspended. Financial support from the Government to pay all the social and health insurance.

13. Suspension of the work in all SME that have over 50 employees who do not respect hygiene conditions, distances, and when they don’t disinfect the workplace. During these days President of BSPSH Mr. Gezim Kalaja intervened personally in an Italian Company with 400 employees in Tirana Albania following employee’s complaints about the hygiene rules and about non disinfection of the working place, also the difficulties in transfer by bus of the employees. For all these reasons President of BSPSH Mr. Gezim Kalaja after negotiated online with shop steward of the Company and the representative of the employers, they together decided to suspend the work for 400 employees, and their salaries + social insurance + health insurance should be paid from the Company during the period of Covid-19. BSPSH has verifed a lack of inspection from Labour Inspectorate

14. Any dismissal during the Covid-19 period should be invalid.

15. To close educational institutions, kindergartens, primary schools, gymnasiums, universities. Teachers to apply online teaching.

16. Suspend of public and private transport, allowing only free movement for the supply of goods and services necessary for the economic chain.

17. Informing employees of the danger of this virus and the measures to be taken. Informing employees through Occupational Health and Safety Councils, which are composed also from Trade Union Members. Occupational Health and Safety Councils should play a key role in these difficult moments.

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Website: www.bspsh.org.al
18. BSPSH has made available a Telephone number where workers can report any violations by employers during the period of Covid-19.


20. Financial packages for the most difficult sectors such as tourism, taxi drivers or public and private transport, sports, garment industry due to the cancellation of orders.

21. Online training for union members, Occupation Health and Safety Council Members and shop-stewards on measures against Covid-19. BSPSH has opened an online course leaded from Independent Trade Union of Health Sector (member of BSPSH), composed from doctors, nurses in order that they can inform our members and workers for the measures against Covid-19.

22. The right of paid leave for one of the parents who care of children under the age of 18 while the other parent should work.

23. Financial package for vulnerable people, unemployed persons, persons with disabilities, in relation to providing them with income and various medicines. Particular attention is given to pregnant women who need health care during pregnancy.

24. Financial packages for retirees, their pension should be delivered by past at home. and provide you with the necessary medicines in order that they cannot go out of home.

25. Provision of free legal assistance from BSPSH in case of problems due to labor relations.

26. Providing consultation to our members on all decisions taken by the
Government

27. Free legal consultations for all women who, under these conditions of isolation, will face domestic violence, working jointly with civil society.

28. Reporting and denouncing all cases of violation due to work relations.

29. Suspension of work in the field of justice.

30. Approval of special permission to release convicts from prison to guarantee their health.

31. Open New quarantine hospitals in the major cities as the number of infected persons is increasing.

32. Measures to be taken by the Bank of Albania on economic packages to reduce inflation, avoiding the economic crisis.

33. The Government should subsidize the employees of media and the Company of Media as the financial crises also will affect also this sector, because they are very important in informing the citizens.

34. The Government should subsidize employees in the tourism sector, also the Tourism employers’ organization and Tourism companies. The Government should subsidize as well as promoting and financing production in agriculture sector in Albania.

35. Special attention from the Government to the public sector, and in all the sector of police staff ( including the police officers, traffic police officers, and of police officers of prisons in all Albania ) as this sectors are continuing working. Taking measure for equipment’s, disinfectants, limited working hours.

BSPSH continues its work on a timetable (part time and not all the staff)
and is in constant contact online with all its structures throughout Albania in the fight against COVID 19 against this invisible enemy of humanity.

ITUC, ETUC, EZA and all the Confederations must find a strategy to protect workplaces, to protect the workers, in order not to lose workplaces, not to lose collective agreements and not to lose our members.

*The measures taken from Albania Government are not been consulted with social partners Trade Unions and Employers Organization’s.  

The economic financial package of the Government is not well studied and has not been consulted with social partners. There are not clear consequences for the situation, as the economy will risk a serious slowdown.

Some of the requirements of BSPSH are fulfilled from the Government of Albania, but due to the lack of social dialogue and consultation the decisions of the Government are out of expectation of Employers Organization and Workers Organization as BSPSH.

National Labor Council should have organized the meeting online, in order that economic reforms measures taken from the Government, should be consulted from the Employer’s Organization and Worker’s Organization.

Mr. Gezim Kalaja as Vice Chairman of the National Labor Council has send an email to the Ministry of Economy and Finance to held the
meeting online and to discuss about the other reforms should be taken during this period of time.

BSPSH Social media; www.bspsh.org.al Facebook, Twitter, emails etc.

Tel numbers for consultations with Workers 0035542227579, 00355682077887