



**INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION**

Mr Volodymyr Zelenskyy
President of Ukraine
Office of the President of Ukraine
Bankova Street 11
Kyiv, 01220

Mr Denys Chmyhal
Prime Minister of Ukraine
Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
12/2, M. Hrushevskoho Street
Kyiv, 01008

Mr Ruslan Stefanchuk
Chairman of Verkhovna Rada of
Ukraine
5, Mykhaila Hrushevskoho Street
Kyiv, 01008 Kyiv
Ukraine

By hand-delivery with copy to *the
Embassy of Ukraine in the Kingdom
of Belgium*: emb_be@mfa.gov.ua

PERC/AL/pw

Brussels, 18 July 2022

Dear Mr President,
Dear Mr Prime Minister,
Dear Mr Stefanchuk,

Draft Bills 6420 and 6421

We have learnt with great astonishment that the Economic Development Committee of the Verkhovna Rada revived the Draft Laws “On Legal Regime of Property of All-Union Public Organisations of Former USSR” No 6420 of 10/12/2021 and “On Moratorium on Use of Property of all-Union Public Associations (Organisations) of Former USSR” No 6421 of 10/12/2021 and sent them to the Parliament for consideration.

These draft laws were introduced in the Verkhovna Rada by the government of Ukraine on 10 December 2021. We wrote on several occasions to the government, the President

and the Verkhovna Rada that alienation of trade union property would violate international obligations of Ukraine. Furthermore, the International Labour Organisation also expressed its concerns in a direct request to the government.

It is very disturbing that the Parliament, in the situation of war, intends to proceed with this legislation. We must reiterate our deep concern that these two laws affecting trade unions were introduced in the Verkhovna Rada unilaterally and without meaningful consultations with trade unions. To revive them today, when there is martial law installed, is a scandal.

From the first day of the war, Ukrainian trade unions have joined the national efforts to counter the aggression, but also to cope with the humanitarian crisis provoked by it. Trade union facilities and offices currently host tens of thousands of internally displaced people, and trade union activists coordinate the provision of material aid to those in need, and the organisation of deliveries of vital goods and products. Supported by the ITUC and the ETUC, European national trade union centres and the International Labour Organization, 16 trade union sanatoria, 8 tourist facilities and some 10 facilities of sectoral and territorial trade unions have been used to provide temporary or permanent shelter to refugees and IDPs. More than 6,000 persons currently live in trade union facilities. Among them, the vast majority are women with children, family members of military personnel, and elderly and disabled persons.

It is simply inexplicable that the government and members of the ruling party in the Parliament, instead on focusing on the necessities of war and recovery times, continue their blatant attack on workers and their unions, abusing its law-making powers and proceeding to seize trade union property in an apparent disregard for due process and the rule of law which are essential for creating a climate that respects and protects the exercise of freedom of association in line with Ukraine's international legal obligations.

We welcomed the recent decision to grant Ukraine EU candidate status, a long-time aspiration of Ukrainian workers who stood in the revolution of dignity and who now sacrifice their lives, health and wellbeing in the fight for democracy and sovereignty against Russian aggression. That is a unique chance for the country to build democracy and freedom, a social market economy and the well-being of its people, guaranteeing their rights.

The Draft Bills 6420 and 6421 do not serve that mission, furthermore, they violate the EU Acquis and ILO Conventions, and are not in the interests of workers and citizens of Ukraine, but of a group of privileged individuals, who continue their exploits to alienate and eventually to expropriate trade union property.

We urge you to withdraw this draft legislation immediately. We will inform the ILO and the European Union accordingly and request their intervention to make sure Ukraine respects its international obligations and honors commitments of a EU candidate country.

Yours sincerely,



Sharan Burrow
General Secretary
ITUC



Luca Visentini
General Secretary
ETUC and PERC

CC: - Mr Matti Maasikas, Head, Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine
(matti.maasikas@eeas.europa.eu)

- FPSU