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The Hungarian Trade Union Confederation / MASZSZ presidium adopted the following demands in relation of the urgent steps/ measures deemed necessary to fight the economic and social consequences of the Covid-19 epidemic crisis. Until the 3rd April there was no involvement of, social dialogue with trade unions in the drafting and implementation of government actions, while a number of actors on the business/ employer side was part. This has been heavily criticised by MASZSZ.

On the initiative of MASZSZ and all social partner actors, an extended online meeting of the Private sector Consultation Forum (VKF) took place on April 6 and agreed to hold weekly meeting with two standing points on the agenda: overview of the health situation and review of the employment situation.

07. 04. 2020.

Five-point rescue package of the Hungarian Trade Union Confederation to prevent the financial impoverishment of employees, to help businesses stay afloat - or to restart them quickly later

1. No one can be left without income!

- Wage compensation for businesses that need to send workers to downtime!
- Parents who have to stay home due to close down of school and lose their income, most of them mothers, should receive financial compensation through the family system!
- Due to the drastic increase in food prices the most deprived groups should be exempted from income tax - those employed on minimum wage and guaranteed minimum wage.
- Extend the job seeker's allowance (unemployment benefit) payment period must be extended until after 3 months of the extraordinary government mandate.
- Increase jobseeker's allowance to make a living!

- Allow to use the Széchenyi Rest Card (NICE Card) to buy food out of the accomodation or leasure sub account, so that such purchases can be made during the emergency period, at least until 31 August 2020. This transfer

2. Interest reconciliation, social dialogue!

- MASZSZ demands that social partners be involved by the government in the preparation of the Economic Protection Action Plan!
- The national level reconciliation forums – VKF (private sector), OKÉT (public sector), KVKF (public companies) – should review economic, employment data, the necessary crisis management tasks and the effectiveness of earlier decisions every two weeks.

3. Transparency of use of grants!

- Social partners should be given accurate statement report of the number of those received government support and the conditions for assistance.
- The government should provide social partners with up-to-date and credible employment and unemployment data!

4. In order to preserve jobs and restart the economy quickly, trade unions expect that supported businesses make commitment to a redundancy stop.

5. Quick help to pensioners

- All pensioner with a pension below HUF 150,000 (420 EUR) per month should receive an emergency allowance of HUF 50,000 (140 EUR), preferably in the month of April. Pensioners with pensions of less than HUF 100,000 (280 EUR) per month should receive a "special amount"!

Budapest, 03. 04. 2020

MASZSZ Presidium