

Brussels, 29 September 2017

To Ms Lia Olguta Vasilescu
Minister of Labour and Social Justice
of Romania

Letter sent by e-mail:
cabinet.ministru@mmuncii.ro

Dear Minister, Dear Ms Vasilescu,

I am writing to you on behalf of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) to express our concern about your Government's recent proposals for changes to the social security system in Romania. We support the opinion of our trade union affiliates BNS, Cartel-ALFA, CSDR and CNSLR-Fratia.

In a meeting with trade union leaders on 21 September 2017, your Government expressed its firm intention to place the burden of social contributions exclusively on employees, as from 1 January 2018. We are shocked by this Government plan to transfer the full responsibility for funding the social security system to employees. It would add to the already existing violations of ILO and UN Conventions that safeguard social security rights, as the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) has already correctly pointed out.

The intended changes clearly contravene the spirit, text and case law of two important European instruments: the European Code of Social Security and Revised European Social Charter.

Romania ratified the European Code of Social Security on 9/10/2009 (in force since 10/10/2010) and must therefore comply with its provisions, which state that the cost of social protection should be borne collectively. Romania also ratified the Revised European Social Charter on 07/05/1999.

Moreover, the case law of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) is clear on issues related to the funding of social security systems/benefits, and establishes that it must be collectively financed: in other words, funded by contributions from employers and employees and/or by the State budget.

We urge your Government to abandon the idea of forcing responsibility for social security contributions unilaterally onto workers, and to engage in meaningful social dialogue with social partners to explore alternatives. We will continue to follow developments closely.

Kind regards,



Luca Visentini
ETUC General Secretary