

João Antonio Felício

President
Président
Präsident
Presidente

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
Secrétaire générale
Generalsekretärin
Secretaria General

Mr Mihai Tudose
Prime Minister
Victoria Palace
Victory Square nr. 1
011791
Sector 1, Bucarest
Romania

CC: Ms Lia-Olguța Vasilescu, Minister of Labour and Social Justice

E-mail: drp@gov.ro
relaticupublicul@mmuncii.gov.ro

HTUR/JB

26/09/2017

Recently announced changes to the social security system in Romania

Dear Prime Minister,

I write in the name of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), representing 181 million workers in 163 countries, including in Romania, to express our concern with the recently announced changes to the social security system, and to support the campaign of our affiliates BNS, Cartel-ALFA, CSDR and CNSLR-Fratia against the same.

In a meeting with trade union leaders on 21 September 2017, your government expressed the firm intention to place the burden of social security contributions exclusively on employees, starting on 1 January 2018. We regret that there was no consultation with the social partners on this issue.

Together with our affiliates, we strongly oppose your government's intentions and share their position that the full transfer of the responsibility for funding the social security system to employees exacerbates the existing major violations of ILO and UN Conventions safeguarding social security rights. Romania has been under scrutiny of the ILO supervisory system and various UN Treaty Bodies for its fragile and insufficient financial base for the national social security system and significant gaps in coverage.

Moreover, financing a social security system exclusively with contributions from employees is unheard of in the international community and a clear violation of the principles of shared responsibility and equity, which are essential to social justice and a sustainable economy.

We urge your government to abandon the idea of forcing 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.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary