



Geneva and Brussels, 23 May 2017

Mr. Binali Yıldırım
Prime Minister
Republic of Turkey
Vekaletler Caddesi, Başbakanlık Merkez Bina
Kızılay Ankara
Turkey

By e-mail ozelkalem@basbakanlik.gov.tr ; mission.turkey@ties.itu.int

IndustriALL Global Union and industriAll European Trade Union call on Government of Turkey to respect fundamental workers' rights, including the right to strike

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing this letter to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](#) and [industriAll European Trade Union](#), both representing millions of workers in mining, energy and manufacturing industries in Europe and worldwide, including Turkey, to urge you to lift any restrictions preventing workers in the glass sector to go on strike, as of tomorrow. Please note that Kristal-İş is affiliated to IndustriALL Global Union and industriAll European Trade Union.

More than 5,700 workers at Şişecam's nine factories will exercise their legitimate right to protest the company's failure to address their demands. We find it unconscionable that Şişecam is unwilling to negotiate with Kristal-İş a reasonable wage increase, at a time when the company has increased its profits by 164 percent.

We are forced once again to express our strong disapproval of the Government of Turkey's blatant violation of the fundamental right of workers to strike, which is guaranteed by the Constitution of Turkey as well as international labor conventions, and the jurisprudence of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The Government of Turkey has regularly misused article 6356 of the Turkish Law on Trade Unions and Collective Labour Agreement. The current administration has banned a series of strikes in the rubber, glass, mining and metal sectors arguing that they are "prejudicial to national security". Using this excuse to ban a strike in the manufacturing sectors does not have any rational or legal grounds. On the contrary, it is our firm conviction that your Government is favoring business interests rather than protecting the rights of workers.

Banning the strike in the glass sector, constitutes yet another breach of international core labor standards. The ILO's Committee on Freedom of Association already ruled that the Government of Turkey, in suspending a strike in the sector on the pretext that the strike would be a threat to national security, was in violation of the principles of freedom of association.

Therefore, IndustriALL Global Union and industriAll European Trade Union call again on the Government of Turkey to respect fundamental workers' rights. In consequence, we urge you to withdraw the decree banning the strike in the glass industry, and create a proper environment whereby free collective bargaining negotiations between Kristal-İş and the managements of Şişecam can take place.

We anticipate your swift action, and immediate reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sanches". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

Valter Sanches
General Secretary
IndustriALL Global Union

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luc Triangle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular initial 'L'.

Luc Triangle
General Secretary
IndustriAll European Trade Union