



BUSINESSEUROPE



To the attention of

Charles Michel, President of the European Council

Sent by email

3 April 2020

Dear President,

We were warned by our Polish members of the adoption by the Polish Parliament of a new legal act allowing the Prime Minister to dismiss at will members of the Social Dialogue Council during the Covid-19 epidemic.

We understand that provisions on this matter were included in the bill on specific solutions related to the prevention and eradication of the Covid-19 virus.

Social partners, representing the largest trade union and employers' organizations in the Social Dialogue Council, already protested on Saturday against grave "interference in the independence of this major social dialogue institution in Poland." They issued a joint letter on this matter which was signed by: Solidarność, OPZZ, Trade Unions Forum, Confederation of Lewiatan, Employers of Poland, Business Center Club, Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers and the Polish Craft Association (enclosed).

The autonomy of Social Partners is a founding element of social dialogue, guaranteed by international and European law. Furthermore, social dialogue is a key instrument to fight against the economic and social consequences of Covid-19 and Governments, all over Europe, should be supporting social partners for them to succeed in this endeavor.

As European Social Partners we are extremely concerned with this situation and we have already sought the immediate attention of the European Commission to support us on this matter as we believe that the new law does not respect the fundamental values of the European Union. Therefore, we hereby call also upon you to open a discussion with the Polish Government aiming at the immediate withdrawal of these new regulations. This would help addressing what we consider an unacceptable endangerment of the social partners' autonomy.

Yours Sincerely,



ETUC
Luca Visentini
General Secretary



BUSINESSEUROPE
Markus J. Beyrer
Director General



CEEP
Valeria Ronzitti
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Véronique Willems
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