

Mr. Arseniy Yatsenyuk
Prime Minister of Ukraine
Ulitsa Grushevskogo 12/2
Kyiv, 01008, Ukraine
Via email: press@yatsenyuk.org.ua

Geneva
27 January 2015

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

Coal miners' rights for decent life in Ukraine!

I write to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), which represents more than 50 million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing industries in some 143 countries, to express our great worry over the situation with coal miners' rights for decent life in Ukraine.

IndustriALL Global Union shares our Ukrainian affiliates concerns over the alarming fact that the state budget of Ukraine for 2015 contains neither provision for health and safety nor wages of coal miners in the budget. In the same time we are also aware that allocations are foreseen for the closure of coal mining enterprises.

We know that social guarantees for employees and retirees, including miners' preferential taxation, free domestic fuel, have already been eliminated, while a lower threshold for the pension taxation has been introduced. The wage arrears now amount to 600 million hryvnia, and keep rising. It is unacceptable that some workers did not get their wages since August 2014.

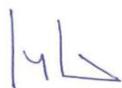
We are worried that Your Government's decision to withdraw any financial support from the state will result in the mass unemployment. More than 50 thousand workers can lose their jobs, and as many as some 150 thousand people can remain without any income. Towns and villages, where coal mining enterprises are the only place to work, will face a decline.

IndustriALL Global Union and its affiliates representing coal miners in Ukraine consider liquidation of coal mining industry in the country is directed against union members as well as the Ukrainian state in general.

We urge You to put all your efforts to make sure Your Government reviews the state budget for 2015 and includes the necessary funding to support the development of coal mining enterprises, improving health and safety, saving operations, and restore social guarantees for the employees and retirees in the industry.

I anticipate your swift response,

Yours sincerely,



Jyrki Raina
General Secretary

cc. The Central Committee Coal Mining Workers' Union of Ukraine
Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine – KVPU