



Geneva 26 January 2018

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

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## **IndustriALL Global Union and industriAll European Trade Union protest the decree of the Ministerial Cabinet of Turkey banning the strikes in the metal industry**

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 convey to you our outrage and protest over the decree dated 26 January 2018 banning the strikes in the metal industry covering 179 companies, which have been called by three unions in the sector, including our affiliates Birleşik Metal-İş and Çelik-İs.

It is very much worrying that your Cabinet has issued the banning the very same day of a planned meeting between the three unions and the employers' association, even though you are supposed to create and support a proper environment whereby free collective bargaining negotiations can take place. Using the argument of "prejudicial to national security" to ban the strikes is completely unacceptable.

It is unfortunate that your Government regularly resorts repeatedly to banning strikes and during the cabinets of the current ruling party various strikes in different sectors were banned fourteen times. Our memories are still fresh with the previous ban of the metal industry strikes in January 2017. With the decree of 26 January 2018, you are banning the strikes that the three unions were planning to launch on 2<sup>nd</sup> February in many workplaces in the metal industry in different cities of Turkey.

As we have already unequivocally criticized this policy many times, 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).

In addition to domestic Turkish judicial processes, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has repeatedly urged the Turkish Government not to misuse the strike postponement instrument regularly in violation of the principles of freedom of association, as it is only foreseen to be used in very exceptional circumstances.

It is obvious that your Government has regularly misused relevant article of the Turkish Law on Trade Unions and Collective Labour Agreement, number 6356. Using this excuse to ban a strike in 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.

This ban of the strikes in the metal industry constitutes, once again, a breach of international core labor standards. It is clear to us that the right to strike in Turkey is de facto inexistent even though it is guaranteed in the Constitution and labor legislation of the country.

Therefore, IndustriALL Global Union and industriAll European Trade Union call again on the Turkish Government to respect in full fundamental workers' rights. In consequence, we urge you to withdraw the decree banning the strikes in the metal industry, and create a proper environment whereby free collective bargaining negotiations could take place.

We anticipate your swift action, and immediate reply.

Sincerely,



**Valter Sanches**  
**General Secretary**  
**IndustriALL Global Union**



**Luc Triangle**  
**General Secretary**  
**IndustriAll European Trade Union**