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President: Jörg Hofmann
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Geneva, 20 February 2018

H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Groysman,
Prime Minister of Ukraine
Sent by email to zmi@kmu.gov.ua; pm_un2@mfa.gov.ua

IndustriALL Global Union calls on the Ukrainian Government to pay off wage arrears and to protect human rights of Ukrainian coal miners

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

I am writing this letter to you as General Secretary of [IndustriALL Global Union](#), which represents more than fifty million workers in the mining, energy and manufacturing industries throughout the world, including Ukraine, to express our concern about the situation of wage payments at the state enterprises of the coal industry of Ukraine and urge your Government to take immediate actions.

Please note that the Trade Union of Coal Industry Workers of Ukraine and the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine are affiliated with IndustriALL Global Union.

We have been informed by our affiliates about constant delays in paying wages at state-owned coal enterprises. On 16 February 365 million UAH (\$ 13.5 million US) was transferred to the treasury account of state coal enterprises to pay salaries to miners. Particularly, 90,8 million UAH (\$ 3.4 million US) was allocated to pay the miners' salaries of the state enterprise Selidovuhillya. However, this amount has not been enough to pay in full all the salary arrears. The overall wage debt owed to state coal enterprise employees amounts to 504 million UAH (\$ 18.7 million US). Therefore, Selidovuhillya miners should receive another 122 million UAH (\$ 4.5 million US).

The debt stretches back to 2015. Understandably, miners are tired of constantly struggling to get their wages through protests and strikes. Miners and their families have been driven to despair. Moreover, miners are forced to work in dangerous conditions. During the last International Labour Conference in Geneva, IndustriALL Global Union joined forces with other global unions to denounce the complete lack of compliance with ILO Convention 81 on Labour Inspection, which has resulted in 485 accidents in Ukrainian mines in 2016 alone, including 12 fatalities.

IndustriALL Global Union urges your Government to re-launch a social dialogue with the unions, and take effective measures to solve the problems affecting the coal industry.

Please also know that we stand in solidarity with our affiliated trade unions and our fellow miners in Ukraine and support their legitimate demands and necessary legal steps required to protect the rights of workers.

I anticipate your swift action and immediate reply.

Sincerely,

Valter Sanches,
General Secretary