



54 bis, route des Acacias  
CH 1227 Geneva  
Switzerland

Tel: +41 (0)22 308 50 50  
Fax: +41 (0)22 308 50 55  
info@industrial-all-union.org  
www.industrial-all-union.org

President: Jörg Hofmann  
General Secretary: Valter Sanches

Geneva, 06 July 2021

Mr. Sadyr Zhaparov  
President of Kyrgyzstan  
By e-mail: [pisma@mail.gov.kg](mailto:pisma@mail.gov.kg), [oip@adm.gov.kg](mailto:oip@adm.gov.kg)

## IndustriALL Global Union calls on President of Kyrgyzstan to veto the new Law on Trade Unions

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing this letter to you as the General Secretary of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industrial-all-union.org), which represents more than fifty million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing sectors throughout the world, including Kyrgyzstan, to express our protest against the new Law on Trade Unions.

First of all, let me assure you that the international labour movement highly appreciates your decision dated 12 May to veto the previous Law on Trade Unions, which was in violation of the ILO Conventions 87 and 98, ratified by Kyrgyzstan. We believe that your decision to veto the Law on Trade Unions contributed to the fact that Kyrgyzstan was not reviewed by the ILO Committee on the Application of Standards during the 109th Session of the International Labour Conference this June, in contrast to neighboring Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

However, we are deeply concerned that the new Law on Trade Unions, which was hastily approved by the Parliament in the third reading on 30 June, while having a new structure and revised content, still largely contradicts the Constitution of Kyrgyzstan and core international labour standards, including the ILO Conventions 87 and 98.

The new Law on Trade Unions states that the Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyzstan is the only social partner, giving it a monopoly, in strict violation of the ILO Convention 87, as it deprives workers from creating another union confederation if workers choose to. The new Law deprives unions of their independence by setting accountability to the government and employers, and puts all unions in the country under the total control of the Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyzstan. Trade unions would be deprived of the right to independently determine the organizational structure, forms and types of associations, the right to establish their own charters and governing bodies.

Moreover, the new Law on Trade Unions is full of technical contradictions and discrepancies, which clearly shows a very low level of legal examination by its initiators.

We are concerned that the Parliament did not take into consideration the President's numerous comments on the inconsistency of the vetoed law with the Constitution of the Kyrgyzstan and core international labor standards, and has repeated the same violating provisions in the new Law on Trade Unions. The Parliament also ignored the demand to include the representatives of other unions, apart from the Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyzstan, into the conciliation group to work on the revised version of the law on trade unions.

Therefore, IndustriALL Global Union calls on the President of Kyrgyzstan to veto the new Law on Trade Unions, adopted by the Parliament on 30 June. We urge Kyrgyzstan to make sure any further amendments to the trade union legislation be prepared with the genuine participation of independent unions to ensure full compliance with core international labour standards.

I expect your prompt action and reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valter Sanches". The signature is written in a cursive, fluid style with a large initial 'V'.

Valter Sanches  
General Secretary

CC: IndustriALL Global Union's affiliated trade unions in Kyrgyzstan