

Geneva, 25 July 2017

H.E. President Petro Poroshenko  
Ukraine

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## IndustriALL Global Union calls on Government of Ukraine to ensure respect of fundamental labour rights of Ukrainian coal miners

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), which represents 50 million workers in the mining, energy and manufacturing sectors in 140 countries, including Ukraine, to call on your administration to take immediate actions to address the dire situation facing workers in the coal mining industry in Ukraine.

Miners from two mines owned by the state enterprise Lysychanskvugillya in the Lugansk region of Ukraine have been underground in harmful and dangerous conditions for more than a week to protest unpaid wages. Salary arrears have accumulated at the Kapustin mine since 2015, totalling 96 million UAH (US\$ 3,7 million). This situation is untenable, preventing workers access to healthcare and pension benefits, and driving workers and their families to the brink of extreme poverty.

We understand that the Minister of Energy and Coal Industry has approved the back payments of salaries, corresponding to 2017, as of 2 August, and salaries from 2015 and 2016 to be paid by 1 April 2018. IndustriALL Global Union expects that these deadlines will be fully respected. We stand in full solidarity with our affiliates, the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine (NPGU), and the Trade Union of Coal Industry Workers of Ukraine, in their struggle for decent and better working conditions, and we also support the continuation of the strike if the first payment is not made on 2 August.

We deplore the poor working conditions coal miners are subjected to in most state-owned enterprises. Miners do not receive wages on time, and have to work with obsolete equipment without the necessary personal protective equipment. Only in 2016, there were 485 accidents, including 12 deaths, in Ukrainian mines, due to be the lack of adequate health and safety measures.

IndustriALL Global Union and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) undertook a joint mission to Ukraine in March 2017. In meetings with several ministers, IndustriALL and the ITUC expressed their serious concern about the lack of real social dialogue in Ukraine. Therefore, I reiterate here this call, urging the Government of Ukraine to re-launch a social dialogue with the trade unions, to set up proper state programs to implement health and safety measures in the coal mines, and to resolve the issue of wage arrears.

I truly hope that you will take immediate action, and I look forward to your reply.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sanches". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial letter.

Valter Sanches  
General Secretary  
IndustriALL Global Union