Support and Solidarity Message of IndustriALL Global Union and industriAll European Trade Union to Metalworkers in Turkey over the Government’s Strike Ban

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

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, to express our full support and solidarity to all the union members who were planning to halt production on 2nd February. We strongly condemn the Cabinet’s decree from today banning the strikes in the metal industry, called by unions in the sector, including your union Birleşik Metal-İş.

We have already conveyed our outrage and protest to the Prime Minister of Turkey as the strike ban constitutes a clear violation of the principles of freedom of association, breaching the norms and standards guaranteed by the Constitution of Turkey as well as international labour conventions, and the jurisprudence of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Using the argument of “prejudicial to national security” to ban the strikes is completely unacceptable.

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 inexisten even though it is guaranteed in the Constitution and labor legislation of the country.

We reiterate our organizations’ commitment to stand firm in solidarity with all of you. You are not alone. Your struggle is our struggle. And we will continue support until the justice in workplaces and society is achieved.
Long live international solidarity of workers!

In solidarity,

Valter Sanches  
General Secretary  
IndustriALL Global Union

Luc Triangle  
General Secretary  
IndustriAll European Trade Union