

Geneva, 29 October 2014

Mr. Cemil Çiçek  
Speaker  
Grand National Assembly of Turkey  
Özel Kalem Müdürlüğü, E Blok  
Bakanlıklar Ankara  
Turkey  
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## **IndustriALL Global Union calls on legislators of Turkey to ratify and implement ILO Convention 176 on Safety and Health in Mines**

Dear Mr. Cemil Çiçek,

I am writing to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industriall-union.org), which represents more than 50 million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing industries in some 141 countries, to strongly urge you to support and pursue the ratification and implementation of International Labour Organization Convention 176 on safety and health in mines by the Turkish Parliament.

This renewed call comes as hopes are fading today for at least eighteen miners trapped by flooding 300 metres underground in the Has Sekerler coalmine near the town of Ermenek in Karaman province. Though the cause has not yet been established of the water surging into the mine, it is the strong belief and argument of IndustriALL Global Union that every mine accident is preventable.

Turkey's mineworkers are put under life-threatening danger daily by an unregulated industry. Now it is simply not an option for Turkey's government to ignore the calls for action on safety and health in mines.

We were greatly heartened to note the recent news of the Turkish Cabinet sending a bill to Parliament to ratify ILO Convention 176. Passing of the bill would represent a noble gesture to the grieving families of the 301 mineworkers murdered by a dangerous system in Soma on 13 May. The bill however is still pending on the Parliament's agenda.

IndustriALL Global Union and its affiliates around the world rallied behind the campaign for Turkey's ratification of ILO Convention 176 as a priority campaign. The June high level global mission by IndustriALL affiliates indeed mobilized the international community to shine the spotlight on Turkey's deplorable mine safety statistics.

We would urge the Parliament, Government and all political parties in Turkey to move swiftly with the parliamentary process to ratify ILO Convention 176 and its implementation protocols so as to bring Turkey in line with international best practice on health and safety in mines.

We wish to assure the Government of Turkey in particular of IndustriALL Global Union's commitment and support in the implementation process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the letters 'JR' followed by a stylized flourish.

Jyrki Raina  
General Secretary  
IndustriALL Global Union