



Gewerkschaft des Verkehrspersonals
Syndicat du personnel des transports
Sindacato del personale dei trasporti

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Embassy of Finland
Mr. Valtteri Hirvonen, Ambassador
Weltpoststrasse 4
3015 Bern

Berne, 30 April 2024
MAH/chj

Restriction of the right to strike

Dear Ambassador, Dear Mr. Hirvonen

We are writing to you on behalf of SEV, Gewerkschaft des Verkehrspersonals, representing all transport workers in Switzerland. Our union stands in solidarity with our Finland colleagues in opposition to the dangerous and radical moves to undermine the voice of Finnish workers.

Our Finnish colleagues informed us about your government's most serious attack on workers' rights and social security in the history of the Finnish welfare state.

The Finnish labour market and welfare state are among the most successful globally. At the heart of the Finnish labour model is the tradition of social dialogue between trade unions, employers, and the government, which has led to sectoral negotiations on collective agreements, tripartite negotiations on new legislative proposals and the expansion of the welfare state. This social contract is now being torn apart by your government.

If enacted, these reforms would set the country back decades and take it further away from its Nordic neighbours. Instead of being a world leader, Finland will be viewed as regressive and will call into question any claims to moral leadership.

We condemn the plans of the Finnish government to start the massive reform package by restricting the right to strike in order to push through the other cuts without any real possibility of protests.

We stand in support of our Finnish colleagues and are prepared to act in solidarity. We strongly urge the Finnish government to withdraw the proposed changes to the labour law.

Best regards,

SEV – Gewerkschaft des Verkehrspersonals

Matthias Hartwich
President SEV

Christina Jäggi
Secretary of the organisation /
Responsible for international work