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European Transport Workers' Federation
Fédération Européenne des Travailleurs des Transports
Europäische Transportarbeiter-Föderation
Federación Europea de los Trabajadores del Transporte

Mr. Siniša Hajdaš Dončić
Minister of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure
Croatia

by e-mail: ministar@mppi.hr; per fax: +385 1 3784 550

Brussels, 29 April 2014

Dear Minister,

About one year ago, on 13 May 2013, we sent you a letter in which we called on the Croatian government to respect and comply with the European Social Charter and in which we denounced the reported lack of setting up a dialogue between the Croatian administrations and the trade unions in the railway sector despite numerous attempts of our affiliates.

It is with great concern that we now learn that the situation did not change since, although Croatia became full member of the European Union in the meantime.

Your recent decision on restructuring guidelines for HZ Cargo that includes collective redundancies of 805 workers in the first phase of restructuring and further 950 workers in a second phase until 2017 has been taken without respecting European and national laws on information and consultation rights of workers representatives in the case of collective redundancies. This figure represents a reduction of about 65% of the total workforce of HZ Cargo. Our member, the Railway Workers' Trade Union of Croatia informed us that they have not been consulted on the restructuring plan and the included collective redundancies during the entire process.

It is not acceptable for us that Croatia benefits on the one hand from EU funds for example for rail infrastructure development – which we strongly support – but on the other hand prevents workers from exercising their social and labour rights. We urgently ask you to grant the Croatian railway workers' representatives their information and consultation rights and to engage in a meaningful social dialogue.

We feel obliged to inform the European Commission and the European Parliament about this situation.

Yours sincerely


Eduardo Chagas
General Secretary



President Lars Lindgren

General Secretary Eduardo Chagas

Vice Presidents Alexander Kirchner
Ekaterina Yordanova

