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5, Bd du Roi Albert II, 9th  
1210 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel +32 2 224 06 91/92  
Fax +32 2 224 06 94  
[secretariat@csee-etuice.org](mailto:secretariat@csee-etuice.org)  
<http://www.csee-etuice.org>

### European Director

Martin R3MNER

### Treasurer

Mike JENNINGS

# ETUCE

## European Trade Union Committee for Education EI European Region

**To: Mr. Zoran Milanović**

Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia

Trg svetog Marka 2

10 000 Zagreb

Croatia

[gradjani@vlada.hr](mailto:gradjani@vlada.hr)

[press@vlada.hr](mailto:press@vlada.hr)

cc:

**Ms. Milanka Opačić**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Social Policy and Youth  
of the Republic of Croatia

[ministarstvo@mspm.hr](mailto:ministarstvo@mspm.hr)

**Mr. Boris Lalovac**

Minister of Finance of the Republic of Croatia

[kornelija.vuckovic@mfin.hr](mailto:kornelija.vuckovic@mfin.hr)

[informiranje@mfin.hr](mailto:informiranje@mfin.hr)

Vedran Mornar

Minister of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia

[ministar@mzos.hr](mailto:ministar@mzos.hr)

CTU, ITUWEC, IURHEEC, TUWPSEC

Brussels, 16 June 2014

*Ref.: MR/AKR/9652*

**Subject: The foreseen outsourcing of 26.000 workers in Croatia's public sector**

Dear Prime Minister,

With this letter the ETUCE wishes its strongest support to its member organisations in Croatia, the Croatian Teachers' Union (CTU), the Independent Trade Union of Workers in Secondary Education of Croatia (ITUWEC), the Independent Union of Research and Higher Education Employees of Croatia (IURHEEC) and the Trade Union of Workers in Pre-School Education of Croatia (TUWPSEC).

The four teacher unions are currently participating in a joint initiative of 17 Croatian trade unions to collect the sufficient number of signatures to hold a national referendum against the outsourcing of so-called nonessential, auxiliary jobs in the public sector.

We understand that the government claims that some areas of work in the public sector such as in the field of security, cleaning, maintenance and so on have been carried out inefficiently and should therefore better be taken over by private companies. The

necessary changes would be implemented through a public tender. The winning companies would then need to take over all personnel performing this work. Consequently, all those workers would then be employed in the private sector.

Not less than 26.500 workers would be affected by this measure which places cost efficiency above the welfare of human beings. We understand from our Croatian member organisations that apparently all those workers have been waiting for some information about their professional future. The government intends to restructure the public sector and to transfer thousands of people to the private sector where they will enjoy different working conditions and rights than the ones they have been used to. We believe that these workers have the right to be informed and even consulted about the direction their job situation will take.

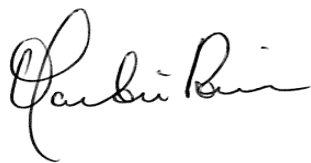
The ETUCE hopes very much that the Croatian government will be able to recognise the importance to stabilise and even to improve the education sector and to draw the right conclusions. It is short-sighted to build solely on the strategy of massive budget cuts in a key sector such as in education when the quality development of every other economic sector depends on best quality education of their future workers.

We point out that it is of vital importance to strengthen the education sector as a main pillar to exit from the economic crisis. The following steps will be crucial not only for the promotion of stability and prosperity in Croatia but also for the common future of all citizens in Europe. This is why we would welcome to see the social partners in education returning to the negotiation table and co-operating on better solutions with the long-term objective to guarantee best quality education for everybody in Croatia.

The ETUCE recommends to the government of Croatia to enter immediately into a constructive social dialogue with the public sector trade unions in order to find a common denominator in the current situation as soon as possible.

We will keep monitoring the situation and our members in solidarity in their efforts to establish job security and social justice in Croatia.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Rømer', written in a cursive style.

Martin Rømer  
European Director