

Trade Union Memorandum to Czech Employees

2010 - 20 years of independent trade unions

Attacks against unions are an attack against democracy and freedom of citizens

Czech trade unions face a crucial test. The global crisis kicked off phenomena dangerous from economic point of view and painful from social one. Life prospects of employees are in a great uncertainty. Some employers more and more abuse workers' fears of losing their jobs.

The former Czech political representation face to face to the new situation of the economic crisis failed. First they were not able to admit the existence of crisis and then to react to it properly.

Unions are the organisation able to understand feelings and needs of people who become victims of the crisis and to help them. Trade unions were the first to point out the danger of attacks against workers' rights, the existence of usury, hazarding with the pension system and the threat of destruction of public services.

The CMKOS was the only organisation in the society seriously warning about abusing of crisis against people who did not cause it - last May 30 thousand people attending the Eurodemonstration in Prague called upon the politicians not to take the crisis as a pretext for unreasoned curtailment of the rights at work.

By daring to defend workers' basic benefits trade unions have even more become a thorn in the side of certain politicians who demean to hateful invectives and call them blackmailers. "It is necessary to clip the unions' wings" can be heard from these politicians - paradoxically in the year of the 21st anniversary of the general strike in 1989 organized by trade union Strike Committees which led to definitive end of the totalitarian regime.

Those who attack unions attack democracy and civil society!

Dear citizens, unionists, employees!

Past 20 years give to trade unions a full right to declare that primarily thanks to their influence employees' and social rights were not devastated in this country.

Wages and salaries in the Czech Republic would have been significantly lower without unions and collective bargaining.

Dear citizens, it is not necessary that you are great promoters of unions, it is enough if you take their work as democrats and respect that they defend legitimate rights of people at work and also of those who lost their work. Maybe also you will once need unions.

Take notice of and closely watch politicians for whom the position o 4,5 million workers is not worth mentioning!

Participants of the 5th CMKOS Congress

Prague, 10th April 2010