

Dear friends and colleagues,

On 10th November 2006 three national trade union centres – Lithuanian Trade Union Confederation, Lithuanian Labour Federation and Lithuanian Trade Union “Solidarumas” – in Vilnius is going to organize a protest action, with the main slogan “European wage for Lithuanian employee!”.

The protest action is going to be organized regarding the low wages not matching the national economical possibilities and Lithuanian Employers’ Confederation initiative to prolong working week from 48 till 60 hours.

The protest action will take place from 12.00 in front of the Lithuanian Employers’ Confederation office and later in front of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania palace. During the protest action the requests of trade unions will be given to the representatives of employers’ and the Government.

We would like to request support from our international organizations in any form you consider to be appropriate and also to send your written support to the following institutions of Lithuania:

Government of the Republic of Lithuania
Gediminas Kirkilas - Prime Minister
Gedimino ave. 11, LT-01103 Vilnius
Fax: 00 3705 2663895
E-mail: kanceliarija@lrvk.lt

Lithuanian Employers’ Confederation
Bronislovas Lubys - President
A.Vienuolio str. 8, LT-01104 Vilnius
Fax: 00 370 5 2125209
E-mail: sekretoriatas@lpk.lt

Lithuanian Business Employers’ Confederation
Danas Arlauskas - General Director
Algirdo str. 31, LT-03219 Vilnius
Fax: 00 370 5 2496448
E-mail: danas@lvdk.w3.lt

Thank you for cooperation.

Marija Varasimaviciene

Chairperson of Unification of Lithuanian Metalworkers' Trade Unions

Unification of Lithuanian Metalworkers' Trade Unions
J.Jasinskio 9, Vilnius
LT-01111, Lithuania
Tel.: **370 5 2497866**
Fax.: **370 5 2496195**
e-mail: info@litmetal.lt

NORDIC-IN asks for solidarity actions

Dear Colleagues,

Enclosed please receive an urgent solidarity call from the Lithuanian Metalworkers' Trade Union. **Please send protest messages by e-mail to the Lithuanian government and the two employers' federations, if possible on Friday 10 November**, day of joint protest action by the three Lithuanian trade union confederations LPSK, Solidarumas and LDF. The message from Marija Varasimaviciene below and the attachments offer all the necessary elements for your messages. Please copy Marija (info@litmetal.lt) and me (jyrki@nordic-in.org).

Lithuanian unions are especially protesting against low wages and employers' demands to prolong maximum working hours from 48 to 60 hours a week. Average wages are around 400-450 euro per month, but the minimum wage is as low as 174 euro. The unions are demanding the minimum wage to be raised to 202 euro as of January 2007. Since 1990, as many as 340 000 Lithuanians or 10% of the population have left the country in search of a higher standard of living.

Yours in solidarity

Jyrki Raina
General Secretary
Nordic IN
GSM + 46 70 386 7080
E-mail jyrki@nordic-in.org

Lithuanian trade unions requests:

1. To resign the request to prolong maximum working week term.
2. To pursue the 13th June 2005 employers' organizations and trade unions' agreement and to request, that Lithuanian employers' organization in their member-enterprises apply the "Methodology for the Assessment of Jobs and Positions".
3. To relate the size of the wages and their increase with the economic results of the enterprise.
4. To set a collective agreements in every member-enterprise of the Lithuanian employers' confederation.
5. Simplify the order of strikes notification.

To the Government of the Republic of Lithuania

10th November 2006

LITHUANIAN TRADE UNIONS' REQUESTS

Lithuanian trade unions requests:

1. To resign the intension to prolong maximum working week term.
2. To set the minimum monthly wage – 700 litas since 1st January 2007.
3. To set by legal acts the size of the minimum monthly wage equal to 50 percent of the national average wage and to schedule its rules of implementation.
4. To set that since 2008 individuals' incomes size of non-taxable incomes would be equal to the size of the minimum monthly wage.
5. To secure that in the collective agreements chapters of the wages would be scheduled the order of the payment, requests of occupations and positions tariff and qualifications, and the order of works' and employees' tariffs. Wages would be set according to difficulty of the work and working results. Also in the agreements should be concrete working standards and valuation. These measures would let to struggle the state control regarding concrete rules of wages counting to each employee. To take the measures that minimum monthly wage would be paid only for unqualified work.
6. To equate the positional size of the basic wages in the state sector to minimum monthly wage.
7. To apply differentiation to non-taxable income size of the individuals': less then 20 percent individuals' non-taxable income, to tax only incomes that do not exceed one average monthly wage.
8. By increasing the costs of the thermal power and other costs, proportionally to increase pensions and students' grants and other social benefits.

In trade unions' opinion, by implementing the raised requests to the Lithuanian Government the respectable employees' and their families' lives would improve in Lithuania and economical emigration of Lithuanian citizens would be secured.

Chairman of the Lithuanian Trade Union Confederation
Artūras Černiauskas

Chair of the Lithuanian Trade Union "Solidarumas"
Aldona Jašinskienė

Chairman of the Lithuanian Labour Federation
Vydas Puskepalis