



Government of Republic of Serbia

Ref: JWG/mv/rp

Brussels, 11 March 2024

Dear,

We are writing to you to request a resolution of an alarming situation of preschool institutions in Republic of Kosovo that work in the public system of the Republic of Serbia. We have been informed by our affiliate (The Independent Union of Preschool Childcare and Education of Serbia – SSPVIOS) that the recent developments in Republic of Kosovo related to the currency's changes have reflected negatively on the well-being of thousands of children who attend these educational institutions. The position of workers and members of the union has been affected as well. We are writing to the institutions of Republic of Serbia and the institutions of Republic of Kosovo in expectation of finding a solution.

Recent ban on payments in RSD in Republic of Kosovo lead to numerous unwanted consequences for the preschool institutions. The issue that directly endangers children is the procurement of resources for work, especially food. Preschool institutions are already facing a shortage of certain food products, as a result of which they are forced to adjust menus for children, but it is only a matter of days before we reach a situation of general shortage. The situation is particularly aggravated due to the provisions of the Serbian Law on Public Procurement - although it was conceived as an anti-corruption act, it is not the first time that this law shows shortcomings which workers need to bear, being left without timely procured funds for work. It turns out, however, that as such it is inadequate in this new situation, where the budgets of preschool institutions still have funds in RSD as the national currency of the Republic of Serbia, which a decreasing number of suppliers are willing and able to accept. The tenders that are mandatory for the procurement of food and work resources are already running late, but it is now certain that the suppliers with which the institutions cooperate will not apply for them, and that the work of the institutions, as well as the well-being of the children, will be directly threatened.

EPSU Secretariat 40 rue Joseph II, box 5 – 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Phone: +32 2 250 10 80 Fax: +32 2 520 10 99 Mail: epsu@epsu.org www.epsu.org

European
Federation
of Public
Service
Unions

Federación
Sindical
Europea
de Servicios
Públicos

Fédération
Syndicale
Européenne
des Services
Publics

Europeiska
Federationen
för Offentlig-
anställdas
Förbund

Europäischer
Gewerkschafts-
verband für den
Öffentlichen
Dienst

Европейская
Федерация
Профсоюзов
Общественного
Осьпуживания



EPSU is a member
federation of the ETUC
and represents
PSI in Europe

An additional problem for the employees in the sector is the inability to withdraw their wages, since they receive their salaries in RSD. Of the banks that work with RSD in Republic of Kosovo, only Poštanska štedionica remains, which today only allows withdrawal of 5,000 RSD (c. 43 EUR) in cash per client and that with several hours of waiting in lines. Some workers even decide to travel outside of Kosovo to raise their wages, but it is clear that this is out of reach for all the workers and is not a sustainable solution.

The European Commission has expressed its concern « about the consequences of the Regulation on Cash Operations by the Central Bank of Kosovo on the living conditions of Kosovo Serbs and other communities throughout Kosovo. Given the short transition period for the implementation of the regulation as well as the lack of prior information and of practical solutions for all communities affected, this decision is foreseen to impact negatively in particular on schools and hospitals.» - https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/vienna-international-organisations/osce-permanent-council-no1461-vienna-15-february-2024-0_en?s=66

We kindly ask you to put your attention to this urgent issue and find a solution.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary