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Brussels, 27 September 2024

Dear colleagues,

The European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) stands in full solidarity with your demands for decent wages and fair treatment of all employees in preschool education in Serbia. Your struggle is not only about financial survival but about the respect and recognition that all workers in this vital sector deserve. The message you send, that everyone in preschool education – from teachers to technical staff – plays an essential role in shaping the future, resonates deeply with us.

As inflation rises and the cost of living becomes unbearable, it is appalling that the government's proposed salary increase fails to meet the most basic needs of the workforce. A mere 8-12% increase is inadequate and divisive, falling far short of the 21% necessary to ensure a dignified standard of living for all. The decision to raise wages unevenly among staff further undermines unity and fairness, ignoring the critical roles played by all employees in delivering quality education and care for children.

We strongly support your call for a unified wage increase for all preschool education workers. This demand for dignity and fairness is a shared fight, and we commend your courage to take to the streets on September 28, 2024, to demand justice.

Your fight is not just a national issue, but a reflection of the struggle for public service workers across Europe, demanding respect, decent working conditions, and the wages they deserve.

Success.

In solidarity,

Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary

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