



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
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Bildungsinternationale

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Fax Transmission

To: HE Dr. Vojislav Kostunica

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Subject: Support for the demands of Serbian Teachers

Date:

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*HE Dr. Vojislav Kostunica
Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia
Belgrade, Mmanjina Street, 11*

Brussels, 19 November 2007.

Your Excellency:

I write to express the deep concern of the international education community with the situation currently being faced by Serbian education workers. I refer to your government's failure to engage in social dialogue and to set in motion a process of negotiations with the trade union representatives of the education sector.

Education International has learned that despite the fact that a collective agreement is in place for Serbian education workers, the government has so far refused to negotiate salary conditions with teachers unions. It is regrettable that such an agreement is not being enforced, to the detriment of democracy and respect for labour rights.

Collective bargaining is a fundamental right enshrined in Convention 98 of the International Labour Organization, which has been ratified by the Republic of Serbia. Such right must, therefore, be enforced in law and in practice. Education International urges your government to establish negotiations with education sector trade unions and to satisfy their legitimate demands for fair and adequate salary and working conditions.

Serbian education workers need recognition and must be provided with working conditions that enable them to provide quality education for all. Serbian teachers' unions have an important role to play in the development of education policies and it is essential that social dialogue is in place, in the best interest of public education and, ultimately, of social justice. Education International strongly believes that the demands of our colleagues are fair and need to be met as soon as possible.

Your sincerely,

Fred van Leeuwen

General Secretary

CC: Teachers Union of Serbia, TUS
Minister of Education
Minister of Finance

Education International is the global union federation representing 30 million teachers and other education workers, through 390 member organizations in 170 countries and territories